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september 16th, 1999 — flying without feet for 51 years — volume 52, issue 7

illustration by Tim Harvey

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CUPE workers slow traffic to raise awareness

CUPE workers hand out information flyers on possible strike action to passing cyclist, Wednesday morning at UVic's main entrance.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

By Patti Edgar

Students biking, busing or driving to school Wednesday morning faced traffic snarls at UVic's entrances while university support staff handed out leaflets in hopes of drawing attention to their faltering contract negotiations with the university.

About 200 people—including members of two Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) locals on campus who are in mediation with the university over contracts that expired in March—hoisted protest signs and passed information leaflets to UVic's students and staff. Later in the afternoon, CUPE members and their supporters held a rally on campus.

Similar demonstrations took place at B.C.'s three other major universities where four CUPE locals are currently bargaining or are in mediation with their employers.

"We want to show that when picket lines go up, it will be serious business," said Doug Sprenger, UVic's CUPE Local 951 president and the chair of the universities' co-ordinated bargaining committee. "This is just a dry run. If the government doesn't take us seriously, there will be action."

Like their counterparts at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia, UVic support staff are asking for wage settlements and benefits that match recent agreements with university faculty and administrators.

CUPE Locals 917 and 951 would also like to see the university pay for medical coverage, improve dental coverage, increase pensions, and start a long-term disability plan. Job security and pay equity are also top priorities.

Students on their way to morning classes had mixed feelings about what CUPE locals billed as a "day of action."

"It was a little too aggressive," said fourth-year biochemistry major Doug Kralt, who supports the workers' cause, but not their tactics. "It's too early in the morning to have someone yelling at me and shoving papers in my face."

Kris Brink, a part-time student, said the leaflet campaign was a good way to distribute information to students. Although she supports the workers, she is concerned about the possibility of a long strike.

"If it ends up affecting students' ability to get to their classes or the library it's just shifting their problems onto the students. Our working conditions count too."

Both UVic CUPE locals have mediation days scheduled next week and the university is hopeful that the mediation process will result in contracts, said UVic's communications director Bruce Kilpatrick.

But strike action at UVic is still a possibility, warned Sprenger.

Today, Sept. 16, members of CUPE 951—which includes 600 office, technical and child care workers—will cast a strike vote. Last week, at a meeting aimed at gauging support for job action, 82 per cent of the members who were present voted "yes."

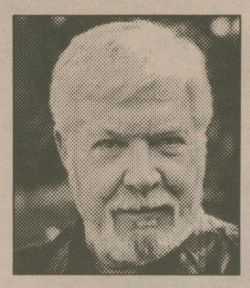
CUPE 917 members, which include 400 janitorial, food services and trades workers, cast a favourable strike vote in June.

Although Kilpatrick says the university feels it's inappropriate to talk publicly about what would happen in the event of a strike on campus, Human Resources associate director Phil Reusing said faculty will receive an internal document this week on what to do in the event of a strike.

Kari Worton, University of Victoria Students' Society director of academics, said she has received confirmation from the university secretary's office that students won't be penalized academically for refusing to cross picket lines.

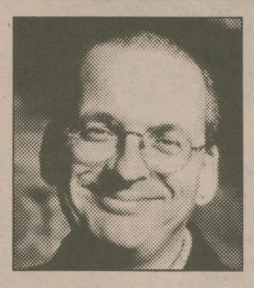
Bolen Books

Timothy Findley



Reading: Friday, September 24, 7:30 pm, Alix Goolden Performance Hall, $5
Few writers attain the stature which Timothy Findley has held for many years–every book eagerly anticipated, lauded by readers and critics alike. His latest novel ***Pilgrim*** (Harper *Flamingo* Canada) promises to eclipse his previous bestsellers, including *The Plano Man's Daughter* and *The Wars*. ***Pilgrim*** is Findley's masterwork, telling the story of a mysterious man known only as Pilgrim, who can not die yet desperately does not want to live. ***Pilgrim*** is a masterpiece as only Findley can produce, sure to be the most important novel of this fall season.

Roddy Doyle



Reading: Thursday October 7, 7:30 pm, Alix Goolden Performance Hall, $5
From the bittersweet hilarity of *The Barrytown Trilogy* to the pained realism of *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors*, Booker Prize winner **Roddy Doyle** establishd himself as one of the foremost–and most popular–writers of his generation. With his latest novel ***A Star Called Henry*** (Knopf Canada), Doyle takes his place as a writer for the ages with a skillful, deeply human look at the roots of Ireland's Troubles through the eyes of Henry Smart, born in Dublin in 1902: soldier, rebel, Fenian and Republican. An unforgettable novel from an unforgettable writer.

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Mike Bullard

Talk and Book Signing: Saturday November 6, 7:30 pm
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November 4: MG Vassanji and Gregory Scofield
November 25: Roy MacGregor, Phillip Teece and Audrey Thomas
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Press council rules violated, says alliance

BY MIGUEL STROTHER

An anti-racism group will be launching a formal complaint over what they call "irresponsible coverage" by several newspapers, including the *Times Colonist*.

The Capital Regional Coalition Against Racism is concerned about the media's coverage of the arrival of ships containing hundreds of Chinese refugee claimants off the coast of British Columbia this summer.

"The coverage of the news media with regard to the arrival of Chinese refugees has been a tragedy. It is blatantly irresponsible and contributes to an anti-Asian [sentiment] that amounts to racism and violates sections four and six of the British Columbia Press Council requirements for trade practice," said Tara Matsuzaki, a representative from the Global Alliance Against Trafficking In Women.

These sections say that "newspapers and journalists shall avoid expressing comment and conjecture as established fact," and that "newspapers should avoid publishing material which encourages discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, ancestry, gender, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, age or sexual orientation."

If the letter of complaint is successful, the publications involved will be required to print statements that acknowledge irresponsibility in their coverage of the issue. The key issues surrounding the complaint are terms such as "illegal immigrant" and an unscientific poll used to justify headlines such as "Go Home", followed by the sentence "Go home by plane, by boat, just go."

"These individuals have gone through the due process required to make a refugee claim in Canada and as such Canada is obliged to help them," said Matsuzaki.

The group that Matsuzaki represents is one of many that has signed a complaint letter issued by the coalition addressed to several major newspapers. Others from the university community involved with the complaint include the McPherson Library and the Vancouver Island Public Interest Group (VIPIRG).

Critics of recent media coverage point out Canada has dealt with over 800,000 refugee claims since World War II. They say coverage on the current claimants is being used as a tool to spur public sentiment and pressure the federal government to toughen-up immigration and refugee laws.

The coverage and treatment of the refugee issue brings about what Shari Graydon, president of Media Watch and a former *Vancouver Sun* columnist, calls "an unfortunate hysteria".

"People are always looking for a scapegoat and in uncertain economic times such as these they are willing to take out their fears on anybody they are able to 'other'," said Graydon. "The mainstream media has a tremendous responsibility when it comes to issues like this one involving the Chinese refugees, as they have an agenda setting capacity that spurs debate and creates pressure on the government officials."

Rose Dyson, an independent media consultant from Toronto, agrees.

"I don't like press coverage that involves unscientific polls. They harbour fear mongering and are engineered to form a type of propaganda that is used to advance a biased point of view. The public needs to be aware of where money for these polls is coming from and what questions are being asked before they form their opinions."

Bob Poole, editor in chief of the Times-Colonist, did not return phone calls regarding the complaint at press time.

SUB room named after prof Michéle Pujol

BY KELLY HENDERSON

To remember a professor that the University of Victoria administration may have chose to forget, the students' society is renaming the Multipurpose Room in the Student Union Building the Michéle Pujol Room.

"We're leading by example. We're naming a SUB room the way we'd like to see things named on campus," said Chris Moon, University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) director of services.

In recent years students pushed to have first the 1996 Classroom Building, and later the Centre for Innovative Teaching named after the late Women's Studies professor. Pujol died of cancer in August of 1997.

Moon says the idea to rename the Multipurpose Room came up at a UVSS board of directors meeting last April.

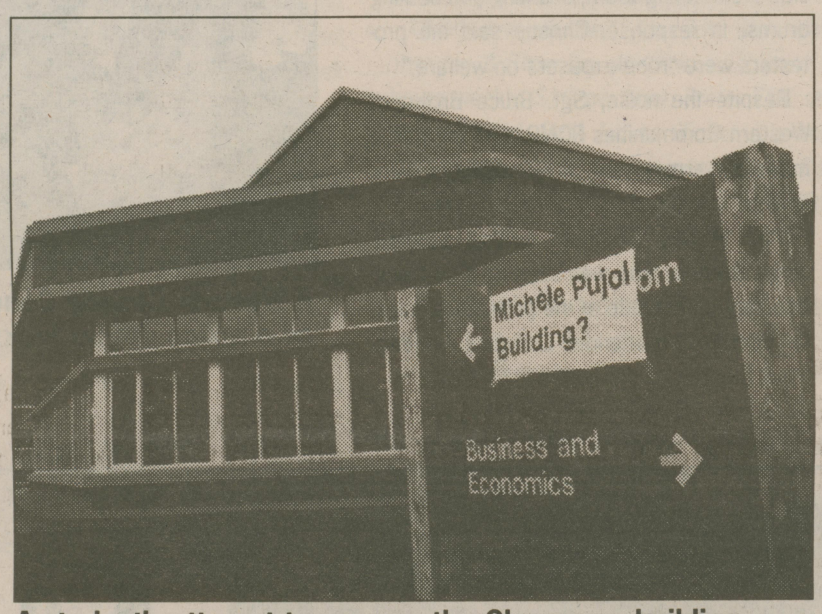
According to the University of Victoria's policy on naming buildings and facilities, naming facilities after individuals is "reserved for those most deserving and appropriate," and "to honour a former member of the university community who has made a substantial contribution to the development and status of a faculty or department."

When the proposals to rename UVic's newest buildings were refused, critics said naming a building after a lesbian feminist activist was too big a political risk for the university to take.

Debbie Yaffe, a Women's Studies professor, was a colleague of Pujol's when she taught at UVic.

She says renaming the Multipurpose is an appropriate tribute to Pujol.

"I think it's a sad commentary that the administration didn't see fit to name the Centre for Innovative Teaching after her. Michéle was always a very powerful and effective student advocate, and cared passionately about her students. I am really glad students have chosen to honour her memory by naming the room after her."



A student's attempt to rename the Classroom building.

Martlet photo

Shawnnah Farkas, coordinator of the University of Victoria Womens' Centre, says the renaming of the Multipurpose Room is a reminder of women who have made university campuses more accessible. "Michéle, as a prof, took a lot of risks to do her work and suffered to take those risks. Naming the room after her marks her struggle. [She] stood up for students, was a voice for students, and it is appropriate that students mark and recognize her work by naming the room after her."

Pujol, who received her Ph.D. in economics from Simon Fraser University, introduced the controversial lesbian walk to UVic students. The walk involved women students walking on campus holding hands to understand the effects of homophobia. It was part of Sinister Wisdom, a lesbian studies course designed by Pujol and the first of its kind at UVic.

The dedication ceremony will be held Sept. 22 at 4 p.m.

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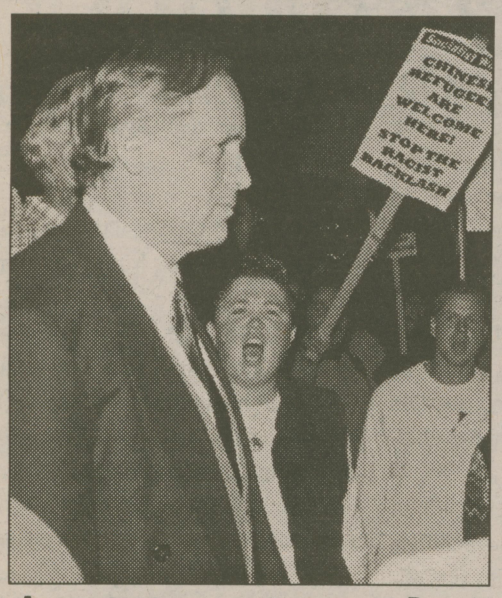
Protesters face Christie at Langford library



A protester screams at Doug Christie as he leaves library.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

By Kristin Froneman

As the latest boat-load of Chinese refugees made its way into Esquimalt naval base on Sept. 10, a vocal group gathered at Langford's Juan de Fuca library to protest a meeting held by Victoria lawyer Doug Christie.

Holding signs such as "Racism Must Go" and "Immigrants in, Nazis out," the protesters were upset that the library board had once again rented a room to Christie, well-known for representing holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, and his Western Canada Concept, a national party he founded.

Above the entrance door to the library was a banner reading "racists enter here." Those who entered were berated by protesters yelling "shame."

Inside the library, approximately 50 people listened to Christie, who criticized Ottawa for allowing the Chinese refugees to cross the border into Canada.

"We have a duty to maintain our culture or no one else will," he said. "If we don't do something about this, don't expect Ottawa to. Ottawa failed to defend our borders...We are not going to surrender without a fight."

Christie added that parliament should be recalled to pass authority and ship the latest group back to China.

National Green Party leader Joan Russow, who went inside to listen to Christie, asked him what his definition of Canadian culture is. Christie said he didn't feel immigration should continue whether people are Chinese or white. However, he said that if people have to be allowed into the country they should have a command of the English language.

At one point during Christie's speech, protesters began to bang on the window outside the meeting room, chanting and beating drums. In response, Christie said the protesters were "rabble-rousers on welfare."

Despite the noise, Sgt. Bruce Brown of Western Communities RCMP, said the police made no arrests and no complaints were issued.

UVic Harvey Southam writing student Jorge Barrera, who was seen on CTV news debating on the side of the protesters, says the people who attended Christie's meeting are scared and feel disenfranchised.

"Christie feeds on this fear and disenfranchisement of the public. He chooses to funnel the blame on a scapegoat, in this case the Chinese immigrants," Barrera said. "The point of the protest was to take the sheepskin off the wolf to expose the teeth and claws."

Russow, who also spoke to the crowd outside, said the library and Christie were breaking international agreements made by the United Nations for allowing the dissemination of hate literature. The only literature available inside the meeting were past editions of The Western Separatist Papers and a petition calling for the government to allow only lawfully-landed immigrants to receive the protection of the Charter of Rights.

"How often do we have to stand here?" Russow asked. "When is the government going to comply with international law?"

Greater Victoria chief librarian Sandra Anderson, who was on the Juan de Fuca property at the time of the protest, says libraries across the country have been following the same policy—the statement of intellectual freedom— for 30 years. She says the central role of the library is to feature a range of opinions even if those opinions are repugnant to some people.

The same policy is applied to controversial books on the shelves, Anderson explains. She says that as long a no criminal activity is incited at the meetings, then anyone who is willing to pay the fees can rent a meeting room.

In order to rent the room at Juan de Fuca, Christie had to pay a fee of $100. A commissionaire was also paid for because the meeting took place after hours.

A Western Canada Concept meeting participant confronts a protester as a police officer looks on.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

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UVic sells shares in logging company

BY TASHA MARSDEN

Do picket lines and petitions get the point across on issues or does it really boil down to dollars and cents?

Students and local environmental groups were about to resume a petition campaign started earlier this year, urging the university to divest their holdings in West Fraser Timber, when news came that UVic had already sold their shares.

According to the UVic's most recent quarterly investment report, the university has pulled their holdings in West Fraser Timber—one of several companies responsible for clearcutting what environmentalists have dubbed B.C's Great Bear Rainforest.

The June 30 report indicates a divestment of 5,000 shares in West Fraser that were originally purchased as part of an $82-million staff pension plan.

The university decided to drop the shares for economic reasons, said Patti Pitts of UVic's Communications Services.

The Raincoast Conservation Society (RCS) and several UVic students are hoping that their work pushed the university to reconsider the investment.

"If it's true that they've divested, it's probably due to student pressure and I'm delighted," said Kari Worton, University of Victoria Students' Society director of academics. Worton first learned of the issue when of the Raincoast Conservation Society's Chris Genovali gave a speech in one of UVic's environmental studies classes. Along with political science student Tim Harvey, she helped collect student signatures in April for a petition demanding action on the investment.

The petition drive was accompanied by a campus education campaign, including articles in the *Martlet* and a radio show on CFUV.

"It's important for there to be awareness on campus and talk about what's happening up on the coast and the Great Bear" said Harvey. "A lot of people just don't know about the issue and yet our whole province is being lost to industry."

The Great Bear Rainforest spans from Knight Inlet on the mainland— parallel to the northern tip of Vancouver Island—to the Alaska border. South of the inlet, there are no watersheds left in B.C. over 5,000 hectares. Of the Great Bear Rainforest's 3.2-million hectares, six per cent is commercially viable timber.

"The idea of focusing on the Great Bear Rainforest is that there still is a vast tract of intact habitat for wildlife that exists," said Karen McAllister of the RCS. "It is large enough to sustain populations of grizzly bears and other large mammals."

University policy demands that once 100 signatures have been collected on a petition that investments must be reviewed by the Board of Governors.

Although Worton and Harvey had collected more than the necessary number of signatures in April, the petition was never presented to the board. If they could harness 100 signatures in April, they thought it was worth waiting until they had 500 in the fall, said Worton.

"The consensus was that it would be more effective to continue collecting more signatures in September," said Harvey. "It makes sense as one of our main goals was to raise awareness among students."

Although this campaign may be over, student efforts to pressure the university into "ethical" investments are alive and well on campus.

As part of a ten-point assessment of the campus, the student-driven University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) includes research on the university's financial investments.

Co-ordinator Lyndsay Cole hopes that with proper research, she will be able to offer recommendations on questionable investments.

"Some of UVic's investments are very nebulous," said Cole.

Coursepack prices remain stable until 2002

Coursepack prices won't be going up.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

BY SARAH DUSTERBECK

Negotiations over the pricing of coursepacks have recently ended and, despite predictions that students would see a hike in the price, coursepacks won't cost students any extra dollars.

The three-year contract between the University of Victoria and Cancopy— a non-profit organization founded by authors and publishers that collects copyrights fees from licensed institutions— ended last April. The agreement was recently renegotiated and prices are set to stay the same until 2002 when the contract will be subject for renewal once more.

Most students say they are happy that the prices will remain stable. Though the packages are designed for convenience and price efficiency—they often cost less than a pile of textbooks—some students resent the cost.

Sean MacNeil, a masters' student said he purchased a coursepack for $85.

"That's about four times what it would cost to photocopy the material myself," he points out.

But although the price of coursepacks won't be changing, students who prefer to check a coursepack out of the library's reserved reading room might not find what they are looking for.

Unlike textbooks, copyright regulations restrict coursepacks from being put on reserve in the library. And this year, the library will be more vigilant about enforcing that rule.

According to Lynne Jordon, UVic library's head of Access Services, putting coursepacks on reserve violates a Cancopy agreement which states that a the package must be purchased by only one individual, rather than multiple parties.

Jordon does feel, however, that in some situations, exceptions can be made. Such would be the case for students who are unable to complete assignments because coursepacks are not available in the bookstore for everyone in the class.

But Tobi Carlson, UVic's coursepack co-ordinator, said students should rarely be in a position where such a measure would be necessary.

"The bookstore has a policy whereby any student requiring a coursepack can receive one after 48 hours of requesting it...don't wait until the night before your midterm to put in a request."

This year, students are once again debating the merit of coursepacks and whether they are a preferred alternative to textbooks.

Some students, such as Tatiana Alpatof, prefer coursepacks to the more pricey and often less useful texts.

"Coursepacks provide a variety of readings at a much lower price than textbooks....I have so many textbooks that I'll never use and can't resell. At least I'm not spending a hundred dollars or so on a coursepack."

But other students disagree.

"If it's not going to be something I'll want to keep then why should I spend $50 on a couple hundred pages of loose leaf sheets of paper?" said psychology major Scott Jones.

UVic bookstore staff recognize that not all students agree on the desirability of coursepacks, but say their purpose is to serve the students, not themselves, and ask for students' feedback.

"There seems to be a falsely held belief by students that the bookstore is out to make money when in fact we are only just covering our costs," says Carlson.

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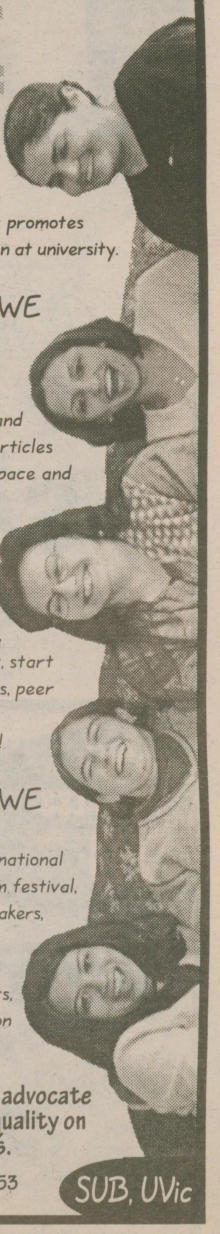

WHO ARE WE?
A volunteer run organization that promotes equality for women at university.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?
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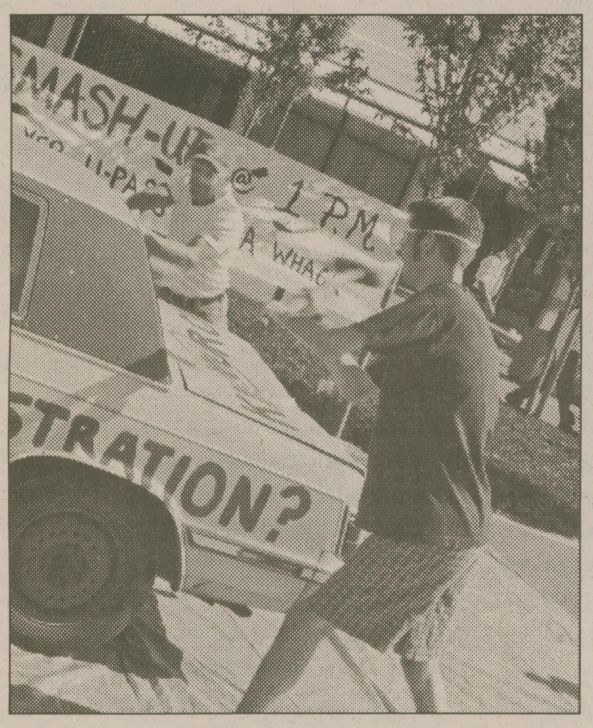
Jury still out on U-Pass



A car smashing ceremony launched the U-Pass on Sept. 14.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

By Marc Dagneau

Beside the sign on the Campus Security window that reads "Parking hasn't been this exciting since high school," UVic students are still lining up for their parking passes in the second week of classes, while others are pouring in and out of busses with U-Passes in hand.

Inside Campus Security, the clerk says she doesn't understand the meaning of the sign.

"Maybe it's because we have more general parking areas available this year."

Starting this September,every registered student pays for, and receives, a U-Pass, that allows students to ride the bus all semester for $44. But it's too early to tell whether students are taking advantage of the bus pass or driving to school.

Because Campus Security's computers were down last week, they are unable to determine how many parking passes have been sold.

B. C. Transit's communications officer, Chris Ford, said he believes students will not recognize the impact of the U-Pass until the bad weather begins.

"We have increased our fleet by six busses, overloaded the [number] four and 14 routes, and plan to have double-deck busses in place by spring," Ford said.

"It's too early to tell the full impact," said University of Victoria Students' Society's (UVSS) director of services Chris Moon, who helped negotiate the U-Pass. "We don't have hard data but we've heard antidotal information that there is more parking in the lots and B.C. Transit says they have had increased ridership."

In the past, the division between students who ride the bus, students who drive, and students who use alternative transportation has been fairly equal, at about one third each. According to Moon, the latter third is the group from which the increase in student ridership will come.

Before the end of the month, the UVSS board of directors will be drafting the terms of references for a U-Pass appeal committee.

"The only exception that will be made is for students who are physically incapable of boarding a bus," said Moon.

But the committee will hear the cases of other students who feel they should be exempted from the U-Pass program.

"If their reasons are clear and compelling, we'll consider it," said Moon.

The U-Pass program was developed last year and voted into being by students in a referendum.

"We cut an absolute rock bottom price on U-Pass," Ford added. "This deal is about increasing our ridership—it's not a financial deal.

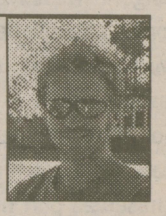
He says the likelihood of B.C. Transit making any money on this deal is very slim.

"Basically, B.C. Transit took the net revenue received from UVic students last year and divided it by the number of students at UVic, to come to a price," Moon said.

on the spot

How do you feel about the U-Pass?

Taylor Zeeg
3rd year english



"A great idea–I drive to school but it takes cars off the road. Good for everybody."

Michael Farrugia
3rd year psychology

"In the grand scheme of things, it's a good idea. As an environmentally-conscious university, we should feel responsible to do as much as we can for the environment."

Shauna Nast
3rd year biology

"I'd like to know how many students are saving money and then I can give my answer."

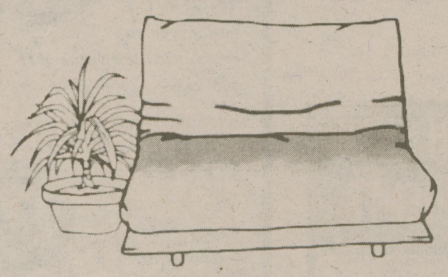
Mike Campbell
4th year history

"People spend a lot of money on the privilege of driving cars to school. They shouldn't have to pay more so others can take the bus."

Krista Shewan
5th year biology

"I think the U-Pass is a good thing, because I hope it will get cars off the road, but I'm afraid it will just get people off their bikes on rainy days."

FUTONS



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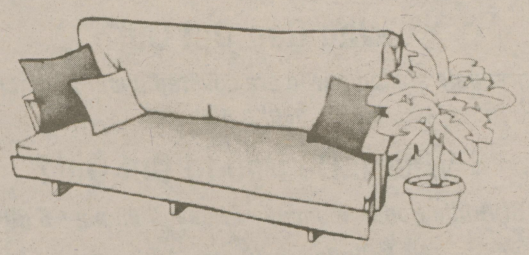

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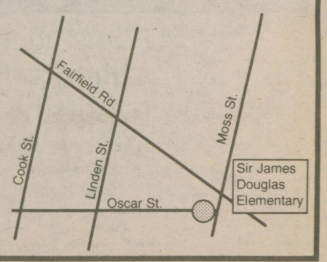

Scientists examine newts for sense of direction

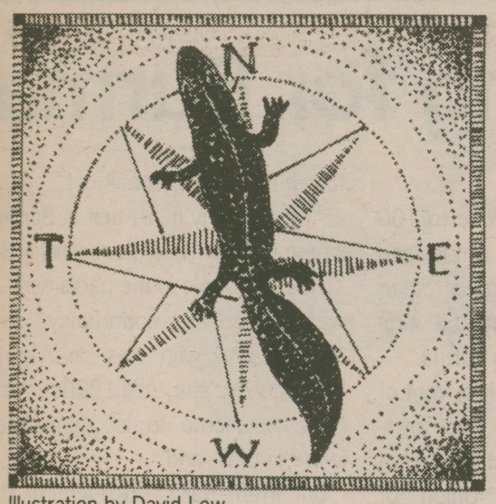

Illustration by David Low

By Gilberto Talero

UVic biologist Mark Deutschlander is looking for the light—sort of.

He's conducting a study on salamander orientation to determine how the animals find their way around the forest floors.

Many animals orient themselves by using geomagnetic orientation, says Deutschlander. Some do it to move over short distances, while others do it to transit very long extensions.

Small salamanders, called newts, need a directional sense to move around and escape from predators so that after wandering distances of up to eight miles, they can remember where home is. Due partially to the fact that the mechanisms of magnetoreception have not been extensively identified in any animal, scientists don't totally recognize why they have a magnetic sense.

Though orientation through Earth's magnetic fields is almost omnipresent in the animal kingdom, nobody knows exactly how it works.

"It's like understanding that animals can sense light, but not knowing about the eye," explains Deutschlander.

But Deutschlander and his fellow researchers are trying to unearth that secret.

So far, scientists think there are probably two different types of magnetic receptors: an iron-based one and another that's activated by light.

Animals figure out their latitude—how far north or south they are from a location—using iron-based receptors, says Deutschlander.

This sense of bearing may come from tiny iron particles called magnetite that float in the animal's receptor cells. By sensing the magnetite particle's movement, the receptor cell detects the magnetic field's strength, which grows stronger toward the poles.

Receptors activated by light give information about the magnetic field in a different way. They perform more like a simple compass, indicating which way is north.

When an animal has both orientation systems, one for direction and one for position, its navigational skills are magnified.

"It is possible to navigate with just a compass," Deutschlander says. "But having both systems is advantageous if you get off course. You would know where you were."

Newts escape predators using the light-activated system which directs them to the beach, but use both receptors to find their home ponds.

In agreement with biophysical models that suggest geomagnetic fields interact with photo-receptors, Deutschlander and his colleagues Chris Borland and John Phillips at Indiana University, found the receptor in the brain's pineal gland of a red-spotted newt—Notophthalmus viridescens.

To achieve this, yellow caps were put on the newt's head so light wave lengths reaching the brain were affected by the caps, but the light reaching the eyes was not.

The scientists found that just by covering the heads with yellow caps they were able to produce a 90 degree shift in the newts.

The investigators previously knew that if a photoreceptor is involved in magnetic compass orientation then various wavelengths should have an effect on the newt's magnetic compass response.

The big step in this experiment is being able to discover that the photoreceptor cells that also sense the magnetic field are actually located in the newt's brain, not the eyes.

Fall weather leaves ornery wasps looking for sugar and revenge

By Miguel Strother

Last September, I found myself at the end of a picnic table, surrounded by pop, potato salad and prospective in-laws, on a balcony overlooking the shoreline of Saltspring Island.

Suddenly, the sound of sizzling hotdogs, family conversation and the beating of insects wings was interrupted by my normally soft-spoken girlfriend screaming, "Get it off! Get it off! Oooooowww! The bastard stung me!"

She was yet another victim of the bald-faced hornet. Known in Latin as Vaspula, this bug is more commonly known as the wasp.

These ferocious insects become far more abundant in late summer as many residents of Victoria can certainly attest to.

The wasps are in the late stages of their life-cycle by mid-September. Although the males are beginning to die and the queen is looking for a place to hunker down for the winter, the wasps are at peak population.

Those that sting are sterile females that University of Victoria antamologist Dr. Richard Ring likens to bitter retirees.

"They aren't unlike people who get old and start to become ornery and troublesome in old age," Ring said.

As the queen leaves the nest and the larvae mature, the only real purpose of the wasp is to nourish itself until it eventually dies in late September, Ring explained.

Normally the wasps will feed on smaller insects, but as a result of cooler evening temperatures the insect population is scarce and the food source limited. Subsequently, the carnivorous wasps become increasingly interested in sweet smelling foods such as fruit and meat and sugary drinks like pop and beer.

Many people are highly allergic to the painful sting of the wasp and are required to carry a kit containing a histamine shot that can counter the potentially life threatening poisoned prick.

If you are allergic or just particularly sensitive to the wasp's sting, experts suggest to keep sweet smelling foods covered. Also make sure to check open beverages before drinking as wasps are prone to getting caught in sticky liquid while they try to steal a sip. A sting around the mouth or throat can cause severe swelling, making breathing difficult or impossible.

One archaic suggestion is that a freshly cut onion will reduce the swelling and pain from a sting.

Ring's suggestion for those worried about interference in outdoor activities is to place a piece of rotting meat in a tin and surround it with oil. The smell of the meat will attract the carnivorous wasp and when one goes to take a bite, the surrounding oil will stick to their legs and bodies preventing escape.

If you don't have the time or the inclination to build one of these traps, the worst thing to do is to wave wildly at the wasps.

This makes the already ornery creatures angry. If you squash one then you are more likely to find yourself attacked by another bald faced hornet, as the dead omit an odour that alerts other wasps of danger.

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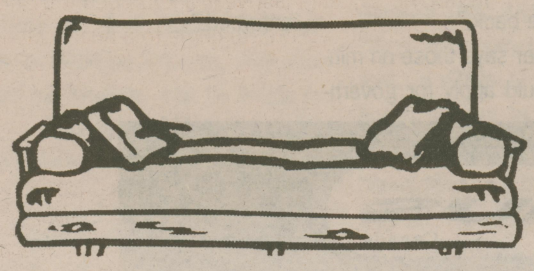

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Place minimum wage at poverty line, says study

By Chris Bodnar

OTTAWA (CUP) - Minimum wages should be set at the poverty line, says a new study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The report argues that setting minimum wages at the poverty line would ensure low-income earners could provide for themselves.

And the report says that contrary to popular belief students are not the hardest hit by low minimum wages.

It says 61 per cent of people in Canada working for minimum wage are adults.

As well, 64 per cent of these low-wage earners are women, according to the study.

David Green, co-author of the report and a University of British Columbia economics professor, says while 50 per cent of those on minimum wage are students, the effects of raising minimum wage will be most positive for two-parent families.

As well, Green said it is not necessarily true that increasing the minimum wage leads to layoffs.

"The rise in minimum wage does cause some lay-offs, but it's not gigantic," he said. "But any time this gets into the pubic discourse, there's this cry from the retail sector saying 'we're going to have to lay off all these people.' It's practically apocalyptic."

Rather, Green says when all competitors face the same hikes, workers have more disposable income and everyone competes on an even ground.

"The net outcome on effects on employment is small, and in fact one of our main conclusions is that minimum wage is a big player in employment trends," he said.

But others don't agree with the CCPA's assessment.

Michael Walker, executive director of the right-wing Fraser Institute, says minimum wage actually puts most low-income employees at a disadvantage in finding work.

By requiring employers to pay a certain income, says Walker, people like the disabled are less likely to find work because they are not worth paying a high minimum wage.

He says people will become employed when they provide a value to their employer.

The rest of those on minimum wage have their own reasons for being low wage-earners, says Walker.

"These are either young people or people returning to the labour force are in those jobs temporarily or by choice," said Walker.

"Some of them will choose to be in those jobs because they don't want to make a full-time commitment. They only want something to do for a couple of hours a day until their husbands come back."

Instead, Walker says those on minimum wage could apply for government certificates to upgrade their skills in private institutions.

These would be payable when they get a higher-paying job.

"In effect put a bounty on the heads of the people in these low-paying jobs so someone has the incentive to help them," he said.

Meanwhile, Green cautions against focusing too greatly on minimum wage as a single poverty issue.

He suggests using the minimum wage as a tool to combat poverty along with other programs, such as Employment Insurance, child tax benefits and job creation initiatives.

"One thing we have to take a pretty hard look at is Employment Insurance," said Green. "We haven't come to grips with this group of people who just aren't getting stable employment like they used to."

Others studying employment and poverty issues seem to agree.

Trish Harrison, the communication co-ordinator with the Centre for Social Justice in Toronto, says the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing, largely because of wage inequity.

"What is the goverment doing about it?" said Harrison. "At least make sure people are earning a livable income. And how about a maximum wage for the top corporate CEOs? Pay equity should be enforced."

Rallying for Burma

By Chris Miller

EDMONTON (CUP) - Close to 100 people braved strong winds and cold temperatures in Edmonton to show their support for the pro-democracy movement in Burma.

The rally, held last week in front of the Alberta legislature, was organized to protest the dictatorship in Burma, renamed the Union of Myanmar by the country's military rulers in 1989.

"600,000 children of school age drop out of the schools because of economic hardship," Alice Khin, director of Burma Watch International, told the rally participants.

"Universities and colleges have been closed for 11 years. This is alarming, not only for the present generation of students, but for the next generation of students."

On September 8, 1988, the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party was overthrown by a military coup, killing thousands of civilians in the process.

The military formed the State Law and Order Restoration Council, which is still in power today despite a 1990 election that saw the National League for Democracy (NLD) win 82 per cent of the parliamentary seats.

NLD leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi spent six years under house arrest for her opposition to Burma's military rule.

"This is to give encouragement to these people inside the country," said Khin. "Who are risking their lives for human rights that [Canadians] take for granted."

The Edmonton protest also commemorated the massacre of Burmese protesters by the military on August 8, 1988.

According to Burma Watch International, 6,000 people were killed as they marched in demonstrations opposing military rule.

The grim situation has moved former politicians to speak out.

"It breaks my heart that in Burma, where women and men who were elected to serve in the parliament ... were denied that opportunity," said Jim Gurnett, who was an Alberta MLA during the mid-1980s. "The time has come to let democracy loose in their land."

But Prem Kalia, president of the Mahatma Ghandi Foundation for World Peace, said good will must be shown to all Burmese people — including the generals who still hold power.

"I ask you, I plead [with] you to step down," Kalia said. "May all people of Burma be happy and free from danger."

Other speakers at the rally included Alberta Federation of Labour President Audrey Cormack, and Alberta MLAs Raj Pannu and Ed Gibbons.

Pannu told the crowd that members of all three parties have met and hope to draft a resolution, to be presented to the Legislature this fall, that condemns the military dictatorship in Burma.

Alberta, however, was not the only place to see demonstrations against Burma's military.

In Toronto, nine Burmese students ended a nine-day hunger strike last week in front of the Ontario Legislature.

"This hunger strike is nothing in comparison to what we and many other Burmese people have gone through in Burma," said Htun Htun Oo, one of the fasting demonstrators.

"I think it is important that we can have a hunger strike here in Toronto and protest against a regime and not be imprisoned. This is what we want in our own country."

Burma is in Southeast Asia, bordering on India, China, Laos and Thailand and has a population of about 48 million people.

-With files from *The Varsity*

Angry protests erupt over bloodshed in East Timor

By Richard McKergow and Krishna Lalbiharie

TORONTO (CUP) - Demonstrators crowded in front of the Indonesian consulate in Toronto last week to protest the slaughter occurring in East Timor.

Passing motorists honked in support of the nearly 100 activists, which included students, members of the Portuguese community and UN workers.

The demonstration quickly followed the United Nation's announcement to pull out of East Timor after days of escalating bloodshed sparked by the Island's recent vote for independence from Indonesia.

"There are currently clouds of black smoke hovering over East Timor as the Indonesian army follows a scorched earth policy," said event organizer Maggie Helwig, a researcher for Canadian Action for Indonesia and East Timor.

"We want to get the governments of the world to impose stringent sanctions on Indonesia until the Indonesian government allows a multinational peacekeeping force into East Timor."

Unofficial reports place the death toll in the former Portuguese colony in the hundreds.

The violence in East Timor stems from a historic United Nations sponsored referendum, held on August 30, in the South Pacific Island.

According to referendum results, 78.5 per cent of East Timorese voted in favour of independence from Indonesia.

Approximately 98 per cent of 450,000 registered voters are estimated to have participated in the referendum process, despite a bloody campaign mounted against pro-independence movements by pro-Indonesian forces.

Following the vote, pro-Indonesian militias mounted a bloody campaign against the people of East Timor.

Although Indonesian President B.J. Habibie has stated he would uphold and endorse the outcome of the historic referendum, results are not scheduled for ratification until November.

"I call on East Timor society and the whole of the Indonesian people to accept the fact sincerely and patiently," Habibie told the Associated Foreign Press (AFP) last month.

Those returning from the troubled area paint a picture of chaos.

Ian Smith, an electoral officer with the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor, who returned from the East Timor capital Dili on Sept. 4, spoke to the crowd of his recent experiences.

"Anarchy has broken out," he boomed through a megaphone. "The militia is everywhere. I helped 3,000 people register to vote, and 2,990 voted. Six of the 10 who didn't vote were too sick, two fled, and two died. But I'm sure many of them are now dead."

Smith stressed that East Timor needs UN intervention.

"This is an evil regime and it must be stopped," he said.

"We have to make sure people understand that what's happening now is that this is genocide by the Indonesian military. This is the organized killing of as many people as possible."

Although Smith and Helwig both say the Canadian government needs to offer much stronger support to East Timor, they agree that Canada has played a very positive role so far in protesting the bloodshed over there.

"Canada has taken a fairly leading role, not an insignificant one," said Smith, referring to statements made by Lloyd Axworthy and Jean Chretien, who both condemned the violence and called for an international peacekeeping force.

Others, however, strongly disagree.

Penny Howard, a spokesperson at the event for the Canadian Federation of Students, said the Canadian government has not met its responsibilities.

"We want to make sure that there aren't further betrayals by the Canadian government," she said. "The Canadian government helped monitor of the referendum, and has many business interests in Indonesia," she said.

Several Canadian companies have business investments in Indonesia, including the Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto Dominion Bank, Bombardier, Manulife Financial and Northern Telecom.

Guelph student housing shortage leads to a city of tents

By Stephen Wicary

GUELPH, ON (CUP) - The housing situation for students at the University of Guelph is dismal.

Residence halls are filled to capacity and off-campus accommodation is extremely scarce.

In response, the University's Student Housing Services is offering students without housing temporary crash space in the form of mattresses on the floors of lounges.

Faculty and staff have also been encouraged to offer any extra beds or couches to students while they search for permanent residence.

Despite these efforts, a student group has pitched tents on campus in conjunction with Guelph's Central Student Association.

"We wanted to set-up a safe communal environment for people in transition or for people who do not have a place outright," said Kyle Patton, CSA spokesperson and Tent City organizer.

"Certainly people can stay with friends on couches or floors, but that leaves feeling isolated and thinking that they are alone in this shitty situation."

According to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Commission, the vacancy rate in Guelph in 1998 was 1.6 per cent - one of the worst in Southwestern Ontario.

Paul Kraehling, of the City of Guelph's Planning and Development Office, said a rate of 3 per cent is ideal.

"That's the rate at which we find an acceptable availability of units and competitive rental rates," he said.

Another factor contributing to the problem is increased enrolment at the University. Approximately 400 additional students were admitted to Guelph last year, and there are plans to keep increasing that number.

To help accommodate the influx of students the University plans to build a new 500-bed residence. It is scheduled to be operational by September 2001 and will be solely available to returning students.

Josh Shook, CSA local affairs commissioner, is pleased the University is taking action and building more permanent spaces for students, but questions their timing.

"They upped enrolment last year but wont have a new residence online until September 2001?" he said. "They are letting additional students in now, and building residences for them three years later? That just doesn't work."

Meanwhile, the University has expanded its current residence space nearly to capacity.

"We've done two things," said Brenda Whiteside, acting associate vice-president (Student Affairs). "We have created 36 expanded spaces in residence. They are level one expanded spaces, that's to say expanded spaces that do not impact on other residents in any way."

Level one expansion involves converting small lounges into triple rooms.

According to Whiteside, the university will move to level two expanded space if necessary. Such a step would involve converting quads to five-person rooms and converting larger lounges to multiple-person rooms.

"We did that last year," she said about level two expansion, "and we realized that it has a negative impact on other residents."

In the meantime, the university has opened up temporary spaces.

"We have two lounges available for students who do not want to be in residence but are in the process of looking for accommodation," said Whiteside. "One of them will hold 10 males and the other will handle 10 females. If we need to we can create more."

According to Alex Wooley, manager of media relations at U of G, a major concern is the type of housing available.

"There are fewer self-contained houses or apartments available than in previous years," he said. "There are certainly lots of rooms within houses available, but obviously those are less preferred."

Shook agrees.

"The administration doesn't exactly look at things from a student perspective," he said.

"They look at things from a numerical perspective, and numerically there is plenty of housing. But what's available is not what students want or need."

It was for that reason that Shook and Patton decided to organize Tent City on campus.

They began their effort on August 31 when they pitched the first tent.

Since then four more tents have appeared, one of which has since disappeared.

Some students have reacted well to the idea.

"A letter of support was dropped off the other night," said Patton. "It said 'We came by and just wanted to say we are supporting you guys and that we hope you find a place.'"

Others, however, have not been supportive, as Patton discovered last Sunday night.

"I went out and found that one of the tents had been damaged," said Patton. "Two of the poles were taken out and bent, and they were on opposite corners so it isn't possible that the wind did it. Another of the tents was turned upside down and hung from the branch of a tree."

Because of the possibility of similar incidents, the University has not been able to support the CSA effort.

"It is safe to say that [Tent City] is not our preferred way of handling things," said Whiteside. "We would rather have students safe and indoors."

Conversely, Joel Harden, Ontario chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, is pleased with Tent City.

"We are glad that students at Guelph are taking action," he said.

"It shows that vocal student leaders standing up on an issue can make an impact."

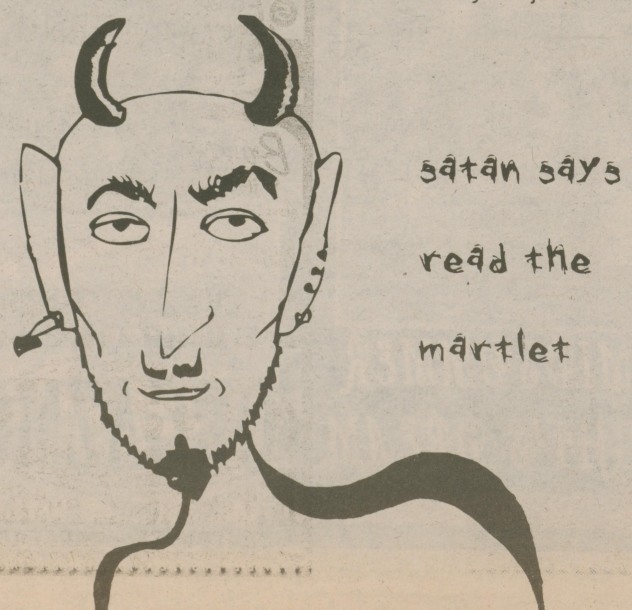
Harden also indicated the student housing problem exists throughout Ontario.

Harden argued that both the federal and provincial governments are partly to blame.

"In 1996 we participated in the negotiations the provincial government held before their decision to de-regulate the rent control system," he said.

"We served a document to them that argued that de-regulation would have a tremendously negative impact on students, yet they chose to do so anyway. Basically we can trace that decision to the immediate problems students face."

"These days students are fighting to live in closets, and that has an incredible impact on the quality of their education."



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editorial

If you know where Kosovo is but not East Timor, that's too bad. Because your tax dollars are killing East Timorese civilians, right now as you read this.

Not that Canadian tax dollars didn't kill Kosovars as well, but at least most Canadians knew it. Those were our planes busy blowing up bridges and roads, buildings and villages, oil refineries and chemical factories. And of course the occasional tank or bunker.

In East Timor, those aren't our planes, our guns, or our tanks—or are they?

In 1995, Canada authorized $362.9 million in military export permits to Indonesia. Military export permits are what Canadian arms manufacturers must get if they want to send bullets for guns, or engines for tanks, or steel for bombers, to any country in the world except the U.S. We don't know how much of that sold, but it's a good bet a fair amount of it did sell.

In 1996 the number went down to $32.2 million. All of that sold. Following that, figures aren't available.

So who cares?

Well, if you cared about the 2,000 Kosovar Albanians killed in 1998, you should also care about the 3,000 to 5000 East Timorese killed in the same year.

In fact, since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975, it's estimated that over 200,000 East Timorese have been killed. That's just under one third of the population, making it the worst per capita genocide since the Jewish Holocaust. And Canada helped.

In the United Nations General Assembly, there have been eight votes on East Timor. In the first five, rather than vote to support East Timorese sovereignty, Canada abstained—they didn't vote. In the next three, Canada actively sided with Indonesia, against East Timor.

Why would Canada do this? Money.

By 1996, Canada had over $6 billion in investments in Indonesia. Canada pulls gold out of their ground, oil from their sea, and shoes from their sweatshops.

In 1994, the Canadian Exporters' Association opened an office in Indonesia, with partial funding from CIDA—yup, those are our tax dollars again.

In all this time, Indonesia was killing, burning, torturing and raping, and doing it worst than any other country in the world, with the possible exception of Cambodia. Indonesia was killing in East Timor, it was killing in West Papua, and now it looks like it will be killing soon in Aceh, another region of Indonesia.

When the recently deposed General Suharto came to power in 1965, with great Canadian cheerleading, he proceeded to kill over one million people, some of them leftist politicians, some of them rebel leaders, but most of them religious leaders, community organizers, and peasants. Again, that's one million people, over three times the population of Victoria, dead and buried. This also makes Suharto the only known triple genocidist since Stalin, when you add the 200,000 in East Timor and the 30,000 in West Papua. Canada watched, sometimes it clapped, rarely it cried.

Amongst all this, there's something vital to keep in mind: Canada does not act alone. We're not big enough. With minor exceptions, like Cuba, it's the U.S. that calls the shots. And the U.S. loves Indonesia just as it is.

So what do we do now? The first thing that has to be done is food has to be airlifted and dropped on East Timor. Secondly, Indonesia is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Stop the foreign aid, you bring Indonesia to a halt. And Indonesia is not Iraq: Indonesia will give in. Even more important, Indonesia is still waiting on about $60 billion in International Monetary Fund aid. Canada should pressure for that to be suspended. Thirdly, peacekeepers have to be put on the ground to protect and resettle the East Timorese, until they're on their feet again. This could take a few years, but given what we've done in the past, I think we can sacrifice that much.

Will Canada do this? History says no. We hope the present says yes.

letters letters

MARTLET "CORRECTED"

Editors,

RE: "CFS Ferries into town, gets free SUB office"

Patti Edgar makes a misleading error in her September 9 story about the Canadian Federation of Students office space in the Student Union Building. The error is contained in the title line which insinuates the CFS receives "free" space. Later in her story she reveals that the CFS actually pays a per square footage charge for "hydro, phone, heat, and janitorial services."

Edgar's arbitrary non-story could have been titled "Martlet gets free office space" because the CFS is paying the exact same rate as the Martlet publishing society, the Ombudsperson, the Sexual Assault Centre and CFUV radio. The UVSS distinguishes rates for all non-profit, non-commercial offices from commercial operations in the SUB main concourse. So while the story hints at favouratism, there is none to report. Guess that's not much of a story.

Sincerely,

Summer McFayden,
Director of Finance
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Students' Society

PAST VIKINGS VENTURE TO VELOX

Norse legend suggests that Valhalla is a place for brave Viking heroes who were slain in battle. At the Velox Valhallian's Rugby Club, these brave Vikings have been born to fight again. Last year Velox won the Times Colonist Cup as Vancouver Island First Division Champions, and won the BC rugby union consolation championship game. Velox has enjoyed success throughout the years due to the commitment of past university players who continue to pursue the game after graduation. Mark Wyatt, Mike Holmes, Bruce Jordan, John Lyall, Jack Leung, and Micha Seaburg are only a few past Vikes who have brought championship rugby to Velox.

the martlet
"flying without feet for 51 years"

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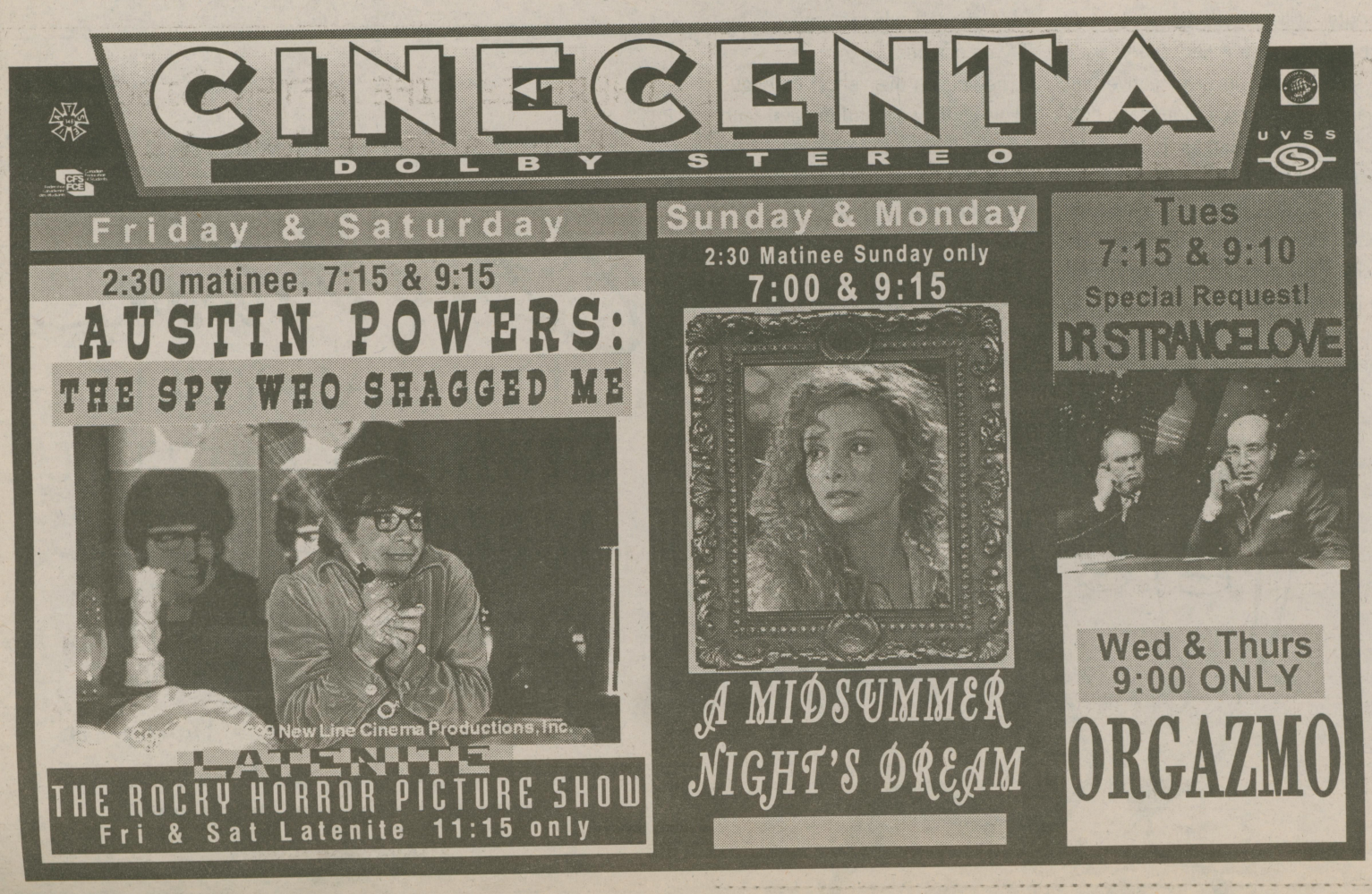
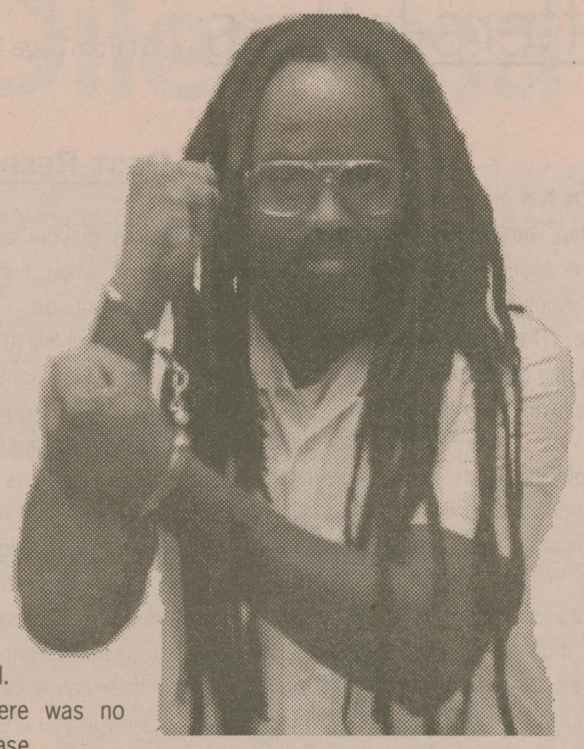


Mumia: the death penalty and racism



The campaign to free Jamal has brought to light issues regarding not only the fairness of his own trial, but the fairness of the entire judicial system.

BY SIMON GLEZOS

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is arguably the most important and under-reported story in U.S. history. His desperate tale brings to light the judicial and political inequities minorities face across North America, as well as the dangers the death penalty presents.

In 1981, Jamal was arrested for the alleged murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner. According to the police, Jamal came upon Faulkner beating his brother-in-law, who he had stopped on a traffic violation. Jamal then allegedly shot Faulkner in the back. Faulkner turned, and fired on Jamal, who was wounded. This is the story the prosecution has maintained for the past 18 years–the story for which he was arrested, and later, convicted and sentenced to death. However, even a cursory review of the facts reveals many discrepancies.

Of the 10 witnesses at the scene of the crime, only two identified Jamal as the shooter. Since the original trial, both of these witnesses have recanted their testimony, claiming they faced police coercion and threats of imprisonment. Several other witnesses have testified they saw a third man in the vicinity, some identifying him as the shooter. The path of the bullet wounds the two men received is not consistent with this sequence of events. The bullet that struck Faulkner was from a .4 calibre gun–Jamal's gun was a .38 calibre.

However, more outrageous than the errors in the legal case, were the errors in the trial itself. After being removed from acting as his own council by a request from the prosecution, and replaced by a state defender with little experience and no knowledge of the case, the trial soon denigrated into a railroad process for Jamal. Any request the prosecution had was granted, regardless of its legality. Eleven qualified African-American jurors were removed from the jury through unexplained pre-emptive requests (a tactic, it was later revealed, that the Philadelphia DA's office instructed its prosecutors to use). Jamal was then often found in contempt and removed from the courtroom when he tried to question the witnesses himself, rather than let his attorney, who has admitted that he didn't interview a single witness prior to the trial. At one point, the prosecution introduced the testimony of a witness, claiming that the witness was unavailable to be cross-examined. When the defense asked for a recess, so that they could attempt to seek out the witness, the judged denied them. The witness was at home and free the entire time. During sentencing, the prosecutor used Mumia's past words and political affiliations as an argument for the death penalty–a practice that the supreme court labeled illegal, overturning at least one death sentence on this basis.

The trial was so outrageous that American Lawyer, one of the foremost legal journals in the United States, has called for a new one.

After months of lobbying, Jamal was finally allowed a review of the original trial for judicial misconduct. The review was presided over by Judge Albert Sabo, the same judge that had presided over the original trial. Naturally, he ruled that there was no wrong doing in the original case.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was a young African-American activist living in Philadelphia. As well as being a member of such progressive organizations as the Black Panthers and MOVE, he was also an award-winning journalist, who often exposed cases of racism and brutality in the Philadelphia police department. Due to his political associations, the FBI had a 600-page surveillance file on Jamal, despite his lack of a previous criminal record.

The campaign to free Jamal has brought to light issues regarding not only the fairness of his own trial, but the fairness of the entire judicial system. It has brought attention not only to the racial inequities in death sentences (84 per cent of death row inmates in Philadelphia are African-Americans, despite the fact that only 10 per cent of the population is black), but to the accuracy of the judicial process itself. Since 1970, when America re-introduced the death penalty, 70 people have been released from death row after being proved innocent. Recently, Amnesty International and the European Parliament released reports decrying human rights violations in the United States, discussing the death penalty in general, and citing Jamal's case in particular.

Despite the importance of this case, and the enormity of his support group (a rally in Philadelphia earlier this year attracted over 30,000 protestors) this case has received little to no coverage in the mainstream media. As such, it has been left up to alternative media and plain old public action to bring attention to Jamal's plight. Sept. 19 to 25 is the Mumia Abu-Jamal awareness week, and Sept. 21 is the international day for youth/student support for Mumia. Numerous events are scheduled as part of the attempt to get Jamal a new trial.

Activist Ossie Davis has said "Every generation should have a moral assignment, and one of ours must be justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal". Mumia Abu-Jamal has until the end of the year to file a right of Habeous Corpus, his last chance of saving his life.

If the United States succeeds in murdering Jamal, it will be a blow to civil rights and moral decency, not just in the United States, but all over the world.

For more information on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, go to www.fair.org,http://mojo.calyx.net/~refuse/altindex.html or http://www.zmag.org/CrisesCurEvts/Mumia/mumiacrisis.htm

Got something on your mind?
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Well, look no further: the martlet is just that vehicle.
There are several options for our opinionated readers. Submit a letter (maximum words 200), write a student voice, if you're staff, bring in a soapbox.
Bring in a raging dyke or bitchy homo, a blood on the dance floor (arts and culture editorial: check out the one in this issue), or write a monologue (a personal, usually non-fiction opinion piece).

You can send us your pieces by email, by real mail or physically bring them down to the office (SUB B011). It's handy if you bring things on disk along with a hard copy of the piece. If machinery is a problem for you, we have computers in the office at your disposal.

We will print almost anything (unless it's sexist, racist, homophobic or libelous)

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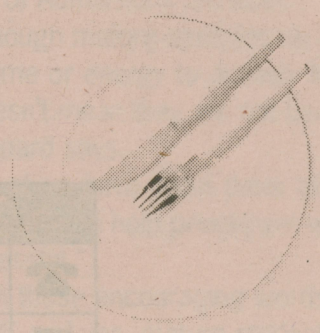

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letters letters

con't from page 10

Velox has always had a good relationship with the university sharing past coaching resources, and hosting various teams at the Velox clubhouse. The university's rugby program has developed several competent players throughout the years. With Victoria's only rugby clubhouse and playing fields on the perimeter of the university campus, it has been a logical step for many alumni to cross the street and continue their careers with the VV's. This year Velox hopes to attain premiership status by winning the BCRU first division title. Certainly this achievement will once again attract university alumni to pursue the game of rugby as ghosts of Vikings past.

Dave Hill
Head Coach

Be Debt Responsible

Editors,

In regards to your article on student debt: when I graduate, my debt load will be at the most $2,000. I do not live at home, I have never borrowed money from the parental unit and I don't feel financially burned out. I lose patience, when I hear students complaining about the $20,000-40,000 they have to pay back. No one forced them to go so deep into debt. There are exceptions: some people's degrees assure them well paying jobs so they can afford to go into debt, or maybe you are a single parent (I can't even imagine how difficult and expensive that must be). But for the average, single, "I'm going to university to get an education" person, you don't need to let yourself get into that kind of debt. Get a student line of credit, (better than a loan). Make time in your life to work 10 to 15 hours a week. Get a job at the SUB, they over-pay, it is easy and they are understaffed. Sure we want university to be a kind of ivory tower, but students have to take responsibility for themselves. Remember we still don't pay for the majority of our education, taxpayers do. And by the way I have never voted reform.

Kathleen Murphy

RETHINK POLAND

Editors,

I am writing you in response to D. Low's article on Poland. I find there to be several contentious issues which I, as a native to Poland and resident of Canada (AND having also traveled there this summer) would like to address. First, the subject of genocide: the article seems to identify the Germans as being the first to invent the concept. Looking further back into Polish history than a tourist capacity often allows, there is an early point at which Polish culture existed/thrived independant of Catholicism. The process of converting a pre-existing culture (one with its own ideology) to a 'forceful' theism is one that is often overlooked in reference to the brutality of cultural/ideological egocentrism. Why is that? The other subject which I found questionable in Low's article is the omniscient voice of his "Polish friend" who remains vague except for to comment on the moral absolution of western advertising based on...a past with communism (?) Having both lived in and revisited Poland during and post communist rule, I can attest to having developed a much more complex and introspective understanding on political ideology. I retain David's opinion that using culturally-symbolic Polish architecture and art work as a poster board for western corporations is DISGUSTING. What comes into play is the unspoken truth that while a country which is politically oppressed suffers, it's culture–especially in the underground–is affected positively. Kant theorized that a culture becomes stagnant when there ceases to be a 'dialectical unity of opposites–in the case of Poland, communism created a cultural and social static that rendered 'class' of its people subordinate to focussing their energy into one collaborative effort to fight for the voice of the culture as a WHOLE. So, while starvation and lack of free moral agency for the culture oppressed Poles, the consumerism of American mentality in the same way exploits and condescends them. There is no all-inclusive benefits to either ideology; all of my friends and family (young and old) residing in Poland will quickly tell you that theatre is now form-oriented and Polish content has become obliterated by the sensationalism of an ideology that advertises MORALS, not lives by them. (Check out this months free issue of ATTRACTIONS for a different version of documenting Poland post-communism, disturbing images of Pizza Hut and Reebok in Krakow included)

Dominika j. Wolski

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The Demographic Dilemma

Mature students make up nearly one third of the campus population, yet their voices, and their problems, are rarely heard.

BY MICHAEL WALKER

When psychology student Ruby Peckham sat down two years ago at the back of her class, she nervously surveyed her fellow students, spied one with a head of white hair at the front of the class and thought, 'Oh good, I'm not the only older student here.' But when she introduced herself later, it was to "a kid with Kool-Aid hair."

Peckham, a 45-year-old single mom, returned to school to get her degree after a 10-year hiatus pursuing career and family. She is just one of many older students at the University of Victoria. In fact, mature students comprise 19 per cent of undergraduates and 31.3 per cent of the student body as a whole, according to the latest statistics.

Although the overall number of mature students has fallen approximately four per cent since 1991, they are a huge silent majority. They appear to be stumbling in the bureaucratic and administrative pot-holes on the ideological road to learning for life.

The federal government's catch-phrase, "learning for life" was an attempt by the National Advisory Panel in 1984 to sell a new vision of working life to Canadians. The message was the world is going global, the technological revolution is upon us and jobs are going the way of the dinosaur. People have to be re-educated to have any hope of being re-employed.

Many mature students say this ideology—relatively more sugar-coated when delivered by politicians—has been aimed at retooling the Canadian education and social systems of the '80s, while the student body of the '90s has unarguably changed.

As late as the last decade, 90 per cent of the student body was under age 25. Traditionally, students left high school at 18 (20 for college transfer) and completed their degree studies within six years (four for college transfer).

Governments and institutions focused on funding and implementing youth-oriented policies and funding programs.

However, as work and family patterns changed and the student population matured, that focus didn't shift as rapidly as some mature students would have liked.

Bureaucrats and administrators are only beginning to echo what students like Peckham have said for years. That these programs lack focus concerning mature students' needs—from an orientation geared to young adults to an Alumni Career Prospects Program only federally funded for students under 30.

"One of the main difficulties, as I see it, is the diversity of the population," says Janet Sheppard from UVic's Counseling services.

Students range in age from their mid-20s to early 70s. Ninety per cent of students who return to university for re-employment goals are part time students, 70 per cent are female, and, on average, have been away from school for five years, leading to very different and specific needs, says Sheppard.

The problem most mature students talk about is the high cost of their education—including not enough affordable housing, tuition that has doubled since the end of the '80s, and a lack of affordable, quality day-care.

Many feel they aren't given credit for life experience in the academic sphere, and find it difficult to juggle course scheduling and accessing university and government services with the obligations of family, work, friends, and illness.

Debra Morse, a founding member of the Mature Student's Association and the group's current coordinator, believes mature students have a weak political voice on campus.

"[The mature student population] is always changing due to moves and stop-outs, making it hard for people to commit time and energy to making their voices heard."

Mature students are addressing that problem themselves.

On June 21, a caucus of the Mature Student's Association voted unanimously to register with the University of Victoria Students' Society as a constituency group in order to add volume to their voice.

The association was founded as a club in September 1997 by a small group of students who met in orientation and found common ground in being the old-ones-out. Now the club has more than 100 members.

Mature students are also beginning to formally address the issue of age discrimination on campus.

Alec Herdy, a mature student and incoming president of the Disabled Student Society, jumped into the fray with both feet when he started an appeal process to the Human Rights Commission over discrimination.

With the aid of a fourth-year UVic law student, and Dave Simington from a provincial advocacy group called the Disability Issues Office, Herdy has outlined three complaints. Two are related to his disability. The third complaint argues that federally-funded employment programs, such as the Alumni Career Prospects program, discriminated on the basis of age.

The efforts of Peckham and many other mature students have raised the level of awareness at UVic and led to action focused on addressing mature students' needs and concerns.

As one of the founding members of the Mature Student's Association, Peckham has volunteered as a mature student guide for campus orientation tours. The tours assist students in becoming familiar with their new surroundings. Peckham says some older students encounter the same sense of social and academic dislocation that she has had.

Marjorie Greensides (a recent UVic graduate) and her daughter Shenaya.

Martlet photo by Kristen Rodenhizer

Mature student Melana Mar credits her cohorts' refusal of being ignored as a reason for a new orientation program she's part of this September specifically tailored to meet the needs of mature students.

Dubbed STEPS (Student Transition Education Programs), it will feature a coffee house meeting place, workshops and front-of-the-line service.

With a long history of dealing with mature students who "know what they want and demand that they get it," UVic has started a new adult-oriented, post-secondary education program called "Weekend University" downtown says Wayne Brundson, manager of Admissions Services.

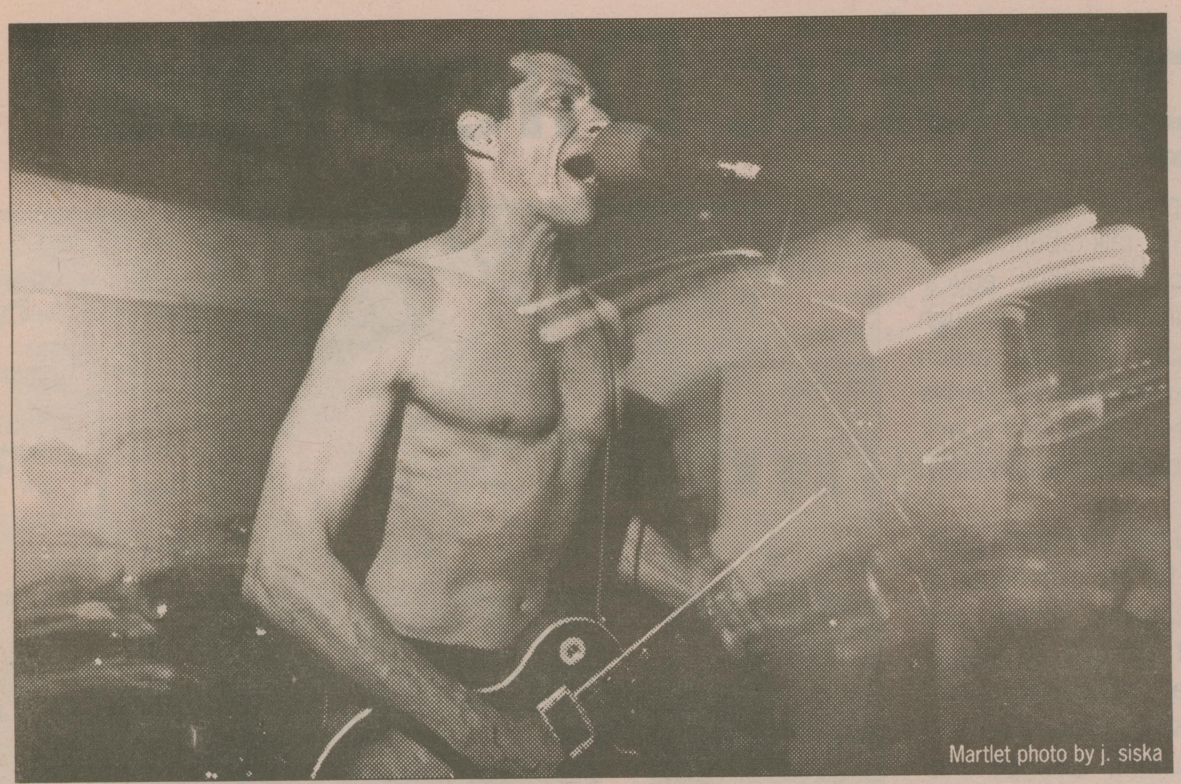
Although mature students by and large don't have the time or energy to actively lobby on their issues it doesn't mean they are not being heard, counselor Sheppard says.

"All of us have been there at one time and genuinely want to help people get what they need to be successful."

With those encouraging words one would think all is well, and yes, mature students have come a long way since the '80s.

However, the reality is that the voices of mature students need to remain a squeaking wheel that politicians feel impelled to grease with new programs and funding.

For Peckman being on campus and back-to-school pursuing new directions is an exciting experience, but on the other hand, "it's hard to feel 21 again."



Martlet photo by j. siska

All ages fun in the multipurpose room

BY J. SISKA

Last Laugh/ Hudson Mack/ Wisecrack
SUB's Multipurpose Room
Fri. Sept. 10, '99

When I arrived at the door, the person working security explained they had to check my bag—and I don't mean in the good way.

Welcome to the all-ages show.

According to David Leach's highly un-informed article, "Punk's New Generation," in last week's issue of Monday Magazine, "the local all-ages punk scene has experienced a revival."

While the verdict is still out on this proclamation (Leach himself states that only "40 or so" people were at the show he attended for his article), it may hold at least a grain of truth as there were, surprisingly, lots of people there.

Now, the multipurpose room is hardly what you'd call a "good" venue. It's kind of hard to get into it when there's a gleaming, illuminated Pepsi machine just to the left of the stage, but that didn't stop all three bands from trying their best to win over the crowd.

Locals Last Laugh were admittedly tight, and those crowded around the stage seemed to be all over it, but I was having trouble telling whether their rock-star stage antics at the end of their set were serious or not. Noticing that one of their members was sporting a serious 'stash only added to the confusion.

Scene veterans Hudson Mack proved once again that they can deliver the most dead-serious political and revolutionary ideals within the framework of a catchy, sing-along hardcore song. They came out and killed–no introductions, just straight into it. The front-man combo of Tony Goluza and Dave Morin is an absolute force to be reckoned with. And the fact that these two guys are probably twice the age of some of the kids that come out to see them and they'll still take the time to talk to everyone after the show, might just reaffirm my faith in the scene.

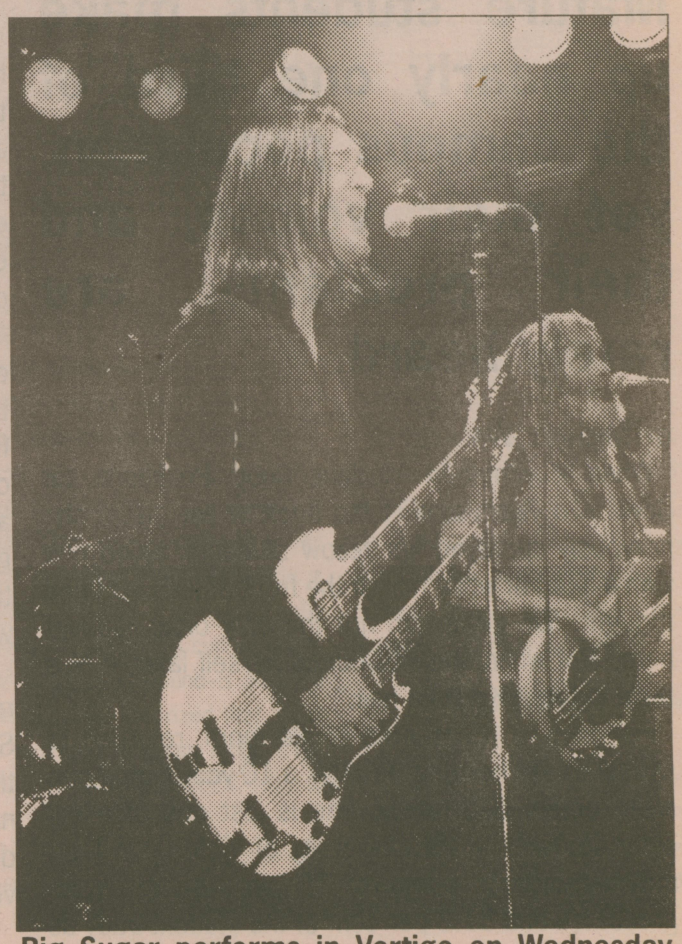
Seriously, after Hudson Mack, Vancouver's Wisecrack had their work cut out for them and sadly, they just weren't up to the task. A good chunk of the crowd had split after Hudson Mack's set, and perhaps for good reason. While Wisecrack had some good three-way harmony vocals, their ultra-fast, guitar-heavy tunes were severely hampered by a drummer who just couldn't cut it.

Goluza leaned in and asked, "Is he good, or is he struggling?"

"He's struggling," I said, holding up my notepad with a C- written on it.

The Multipurpose Room hosts another all-ages show this Friday, as Calgary's four-chord pop-punkers Chixdiggit hit town. My lock of the week - don't miss this one.

Big Sugar confuse and entertain at Vertigo



Big Sugar performs in Vertigo on Wednesday night.

Martlet photo by j. siska

BY J. SISKA

Big Sugar
Vertigo
Wed. Sept. 8, '99

Was it just me?

Or when Big Sugar cut into a way-slowed-down, even more reggae-heavy version of The Police's The Bed's Too Big Without You - right in the middle of their own All Over Now - was the audience completely confused?

I was loving it. But when I glanced away from the stage, Sting's "...that look on my face was just pride," equalled a look of utter stupefaction on the faces of the people standing near me.

Someone said to me the next day, "Wasn't he great? I didn't really recognize many of the songs other than what they play on the radio, but it's got a good beat."

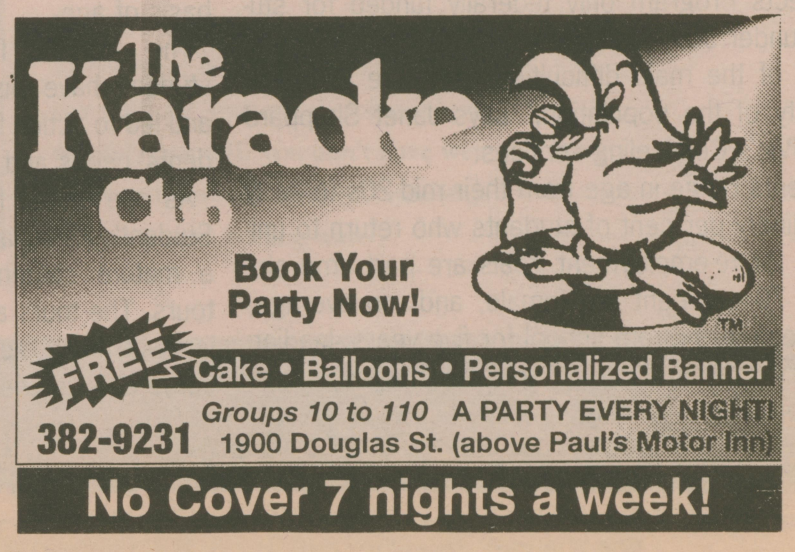
Which seemed to pretty much sum it up for a good chunk of the audience there.

Fresh off a couple of island dates in the past few weeks, Gordie and the band have honed their sound into a polished stage act that still retains a solid, open jam feel. The recent addition of new/old drummer Al Cross from the Five Hundred Pounds days, has only served to loosen up the style established by the departed Gavin Brown. Cross' presence adds heaps of atmosphere as his flowing, near-out-of-control work behind the kit drives the music to totally different places.

Opening the two-hour plus set with BTO's Let It Ride, Big Sugar never looked back as they pulled material from every release, and front-man Gordie Johnson pulled guitar after guitar from the back room.

As predicted, older tracks like I'm A Ram and Ride On from Five Hundred Pounds received lukewarm reactions in comparison to hit-single The Scene ingeniously cut with a little James Brown. This is not to say that the audience wasn't totally into it, but there seemed to be a case of musical brand-name recognition in the house.

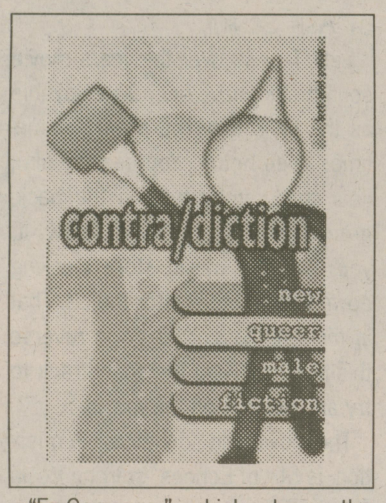
It was somehow fitting then that as Gordie busted out a behind-the-head guitar solo, the bouncers were busy hucking a guy out the door for smoking a doob.



Gay: real nitty gritty

BY DANIEL SILVERMAN

contra/diction: new queer male fiction
edited by Brett Josef Grubisic



VANCOUVER (CUP)–One problem with being gay, according to Brett Josef Grubisic, is that the way one is represented in the media is very narrow. To combat this, Grubisic has put together contra/diction, an anthology of short stories about being gay.

The book itself explores what appears to be the darker side of homosexuality, but what Grubisic has done is to show that homosexual men can be just as violent, vengeful, and sardonic as any hetero.

In short, gays are human, too.

Grubisic himself is a doctoral student at UBC studying contemporary English literature. He says that the theme of the anthology took shape on its own. He originally got the idea for a collection from Dennis Denisoff's Queeries: an Anthology of Gay Male Prose but wanted to explore more or less uncharted territory. When he put out the call for submissions, he was surprised at what he got.

"I was hoping to get a greater variation," he says, "but a lot of writers were self-censoring." He got everything from science-fiction to pornography to literature. He had been hoping to get some stories by women, but the stories were all b men, mostly homosexual, talking about their own experiences.

The first story in the anthology, "The Relative Bargain" by George Ilsley, opens with a boy sitting on his knees on a rug, blindfolded and naked except for a jockstrap. The story is from the point of view of a man who makes use of the sports store where he works to manipulate young men into performing sexual acts. From there, things stay tense more or less throughout. This is not the sort of thing you'll see in "Will and Grace" or other film and television depictions of homosexuality: this is the real nitty-gritty.

"Ez-Carrasco," which shows the very messy breakup of two hispanic lovers. One is already married when they begin the affair, but there is a more significant infidelity. In fact, the women in this story are treated as worthless and hateful to gays, mostly because they see the men as unnatural. So the real issue here is a fling with another man. The offended lover eventually takes his revenge during a last infected embrace.

This is definitely not the usual stuff. It's shocking, but it shouldn't be. Grubisic blames, in part, previous collections: "Most of the [book] covers are sepiated pastels showing two men sitting at a table... and it's just middle-class angst." Here the lower classes are shown, the addicts, the criminals, the prostitutes, the marginalised who have dropped out of public perception.

The most interesting stories come from the point of view of immigrants nd children of immigrants, minorities within minorities. Not only do the protagonists have to deal with the usual problems, but they have to deal often with parents from another culture entirely; one that's staunchly conservative in its outlook.

Grubisic plans to produce a companion volume, but makes it clear that it will be something different. "It's not going to be a carbon copy," he says. Grubisic also does work for Xtra!, a local newspaper for the gay and lesbian community. Ultimately, he is trying to broaden depictions of homosexuality in mainstream culture. "Being gay is still a political act," he says.

111 underground short films celebrate individual vision

BY LESLIE GOTTLIEB

Out & About is a comical road-trip story with a queer twist.
photo provided

Courtesy of Rogue Art, this year's AntiMatter Festival of Underground Short Film and Video will be held on September 17 to 26, and will feature a plethora of 111 volatile and inventive short films and videos. The festival will be held at Open Space Arts Centre, to accommodate the anticipated "twice as large as last year's" audience. Tickets are still only two dollars. This year the Antimatter festival took in a record 507 submissions and through a two-month process, eventually picked the 111 Canadian and world premieres that will be viewed at the festival.

The films chosen consist of a wide spectrum of artistic talent, whether it is through experimental technical practices or a surreal narrative structure. As well, some of the films may have some political or social commentary; whereas others may be purely an artistic visual experience set out to probe the mind and stir up thought. In a recent interview, Todd Eacret, the festival director, commented that "this festival is set out to be a fun, artistic and entertaining experience." It is not a festival that wishes to intimidate or discourage people; if experimental animation isn't for you, then wait five minutes and view a short mystery adventure. The beauty of this festival is the wide range of topics being shown, to ensure something worthwhile for everyone." "This film festival is produced to celebrate the innovative and artistic aspects of film that come from the individual's vision rather than showing films that are mere commercial products manufactured from Hollywood," said Eacret.

The two entertaining and enjoyable films I previewed were LSD 25 by directors Walter Forsyth and Doug Karr, and Out and About by director Nickolaos Stagias. LSD 25, is a story of a young Nova Scotian woman who recounts a trip to Montreal during which she lost her mind. This film is set to a trippy acid jazz score, and is both captivating and emotionally moving. Out and About, is a comical story about four homosexuals who go on a road trip to the States and get stopped at the American border. During the course of their detainment, things become increasingly surreal as these simply ordinary homosexuals transform into "extra- fabulous" drag queens. This short film was very comedic and visually stimulating. These are just two examples of the unique types of films at the festival. So collect all the toonies you have in your home and head down to Open Space, 510 Fort Street, Sept. 17- 26, to enjoy the Antimatter Festival of Underground Short Film and Video.

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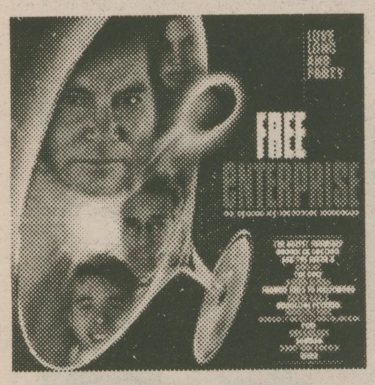
Cooks, reefers, and the artist formerly known as Shatner



BY JASPER ANSON

Free Enterprise: The Original Motion Picture Soundtrack Unforscene Music

By all accounts, the 1960s were a time of sex, drugs, and experimentation, not necessarily in that order. After the original Star Trek TV series was cancelled, William Shatner did some experimenting himself...in musical performance. Blending his love of reading (or lack of singing talent) with jazzy backgrounds, Shatner managed to ruin such beloved classics as "Mr. Tambourine Man" and "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." With his sleepy pronunciations of their already hallucinogenic lyrics, Shatner somehow managed to pull off some even more tripped-out offerings. They are almost worth listening to 30 years later...almost.

Luckily for Shatner, he has since adopted a sense of humour about the whole thing...so much so, that he has launched another foray into music! Billed as "The Artist Formerly Known as Shatner," Captain Kirk chants his heart out once again in "No Tears for Caesar," headlining the soundtrack to his new film, Free Enterprise (you're not the only one who's never heard of it). Rapping verses from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," Shatner is no Warren Beatty, but at least his intentions are in the right place. He's just having fun. Yes, it is tumultuous to listen to, but with all due respect, Shatner is one of the better things on this half-baked soundtrack. Director Robert Meyer Burnett obviously likes the 80s, but his picks (Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Duran Duran) are pretty unspectacular. Perhaps, the most surprising entry is Manufacture, a pre-Adia Sarah McLachlan recording from 1988 with that is not very good.

The Verdict: You will never see or hear about this cd ever again.

Chris Whiteley: Blues Party
Borealis Recording Comp.

If Eric Clapton were forced to sing an entire blues album off the top of his head, he might produce something comparable to Torontonian Chris Whiteley's new offering. Even on his worst days Clapton can still rock, but the major difference between him and Whiteley's Claptonesque voice is that Whiteley's lyrics are decidedly weaker. The pleasant if uninspired backgrounds are harpooned by lame songs titles like "Reefer Smokin' Woman" and "Too Many Cooks" (I guess I'm missing the symbolism). The Juno-nominated Torontonian has the right set-up for some adequate tunes, but he botches it with lyrics like "You like getting high much more than you love me".

Perhaps, I am alone in this sentiment, but I find it a chore to take the blues seriously if they're about cooks spilling broth and women smoking up. Not that a blues cd can't be funny, but unintentionally hilarious is an entirely different scenario. (Where's Shatner to sing the blues when you need him?) Whiteley's music isn't offensive, but it isn't anything more than background music for practicing stats formulas on a Saturday night.

The Verdict: Let's hope Chris Whiteley and the Canadian blues scene have more to offer than blandness.

Soundtrack doesn't sell

BY ASH SENINI

Let's face it, over the years movie soundtracks have been as enjoyable as the films they represent - sometimes even better. You see the film, hear that catchy tune in the background and before you know it, you're at the music store plunking down your 20 bucks for the cd. That in mind, I thought I'd go in reverse this time, allowing the soundtrack to try and sell me on the movie.

The movie and soundtrack in question, is Stir of Echoes, starring Kevin Bacon.

Ok, 1) I was listening to a Kevin Bacon movie soundtrack and it wasn't Footloose, 2) No matter how good the cd could be I was not going to see another movie with him in it. Is anyone going to risk seeing his schlong on the big screen again after Wild Things?

Featuring an assortment of edgy rock tunes and a haunting score of original music, Stir of Echoes might not be for everybody. You may have already heard or own a disk with Moist's song " Breathe," which is featured on the collaboration as well as the edgy sounds of Dishwalla's "Stay Awake."

GOB does anything but hawk or hoark up a loogie with their cover of the 'Stones' classic "Paint it Black."

The pop-punksters crank out the cd's most enjoyable track.

Stir of Echoes also features songs from Wild Strawberries, Steve Wynn, Poe and for the fans of the soft and delicate voice of Beth Orton, a rare B-side tune called "It's not the spotlight" is included for good measure.

Over all the cd didn't sell me on the movie itself, even with Moist, Dishwalla and GOB on the bill.

Buy it, listen to it, see the movie, use it as a coaster, do whatever you want- but remember it's still a Kevin Bacon-featured movie/cd and it ain't no Footloose.

Ishmael: Adventure of the Mind and Spirit

BY NANCY FRANK

I was told by a friend that I had to read this book, that it was an incredible read and that it would change me forever. Well. I started the book with an optimistic and enthusiastic attitude. Not knowing what to expect I sat down with this book and got cozy with my cat. There is nothing quite like a good read.

Quinn has a wonderful sense of imagination when it comes to storytelling. He tells his story like his readers aren't capable of straight-talk, but that they need to learn the message through characters that don't actually live in this reality but the other reality that our childhood grew up in. For example, when we needed to learn of where we came from we heard about the birds and the bees. When we needed to learn about being polite or how not to talk to strangers we read the Bernstein Bears.

In the case of Ishmael, the teacher is a gorilla, and the lesson? How to save the world.

The book starts out really slowly. Getting the explanation of how a gorilla came to be smart enough to know how to save the world is a bit elongated and aimless, although, essential . But the pace picks up quickly and the journey begins with Ishmael, the Gorilla and his Pupil, who remains known as only the narrator.

Broken down, the book is Ishmael asking and challenging the myths about how man came to be here on this earth, what the purpose man has on the earth, and how if we don't change the way we are using the earth we are going to go the way of the dino.

Where the book does come through is at the end when all the aimless blabber that has come before comes impressively together. Although the book does not investigate any unthought-of questions, the discussions of the issues that surround them are interesting and thoughtful. And trust me, by having the gorilla talking to his student through ESP, you definitely see a new perspective.

Quinn successfully allows us to search our own minds and make our own connections to our own lives and blatantly tells us how, even though we would all like to deny it, if we don't change our way of living on this earth we'll all just turn into another generation of species past.

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Carolyn Neapole is something special

BY MARK REDGWELL

On Tuesday Sept. 7, I attended a week of welcome (WOW) event put on by the Law Student Society (LSS) and UVic residences that failed to yield the vibrant throng of free concert-goers my somewhat misguided imagination had expected. Hell, it even lacked the dozen or two fellow first year law lackeys I was certain would be attending this auspicious event.

I had arrived characteristically late for this concert and, after wandering around the campus looking for the colossal horde that was certain to attend a free concert, I eventually stumbled upon a small tent where *quiet strains* of acoustic guitar music bled out into the fading light. When I saw the dozen or so poor huddled souls who dwelled within, I seriously contemplated a premature evacuation; perhaps to the Roxy for some American Pie. My tenacious optimism prevented me, thankfully, from such an action.

Carolyn Neapole, for those who have not seen her play, is something special. The simple grey stage was covered with candles, and I was immediately drawn into the performance. The lingo I usually see in music reviews means nothing to me so I won't write of soaring vocals, visionary song writing, or poetic lyrics because it seems trite and I honestly can't understand song lyrics unless I see them written. I can, however, say two things: Carolyn Neapole more than made up for my dashed expectations, and I recommend getting yer ass out to see her at Vertigo on Sept. 24. She is, by far, one of the best female vocalists I have ever seen live. Better yet, she is a Victoria gal.

Hip-hop at its purest

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

Rahzel:
Make the Music 2000
MCA Records

Yeah I know that the album isn't so new any more but still deserves an honorable mention. Rahzel played here back in August but the sound system wasn't quite capable of supporting the bass that came from this guy's mouth. So to get the true effect pop this CD into your home stereo/walkman and check out his real vocal range.

For "hip-hop at its purest form" check the Slick Rick track Night Riders. I've heard some pretty bad collaborations with Slick Rick since he got out of the pen, but this isn't one of the them. Of course there's also All I Know, the first single from the album, and produced by Pete Rock. But where Rahzel solidifies himself as a certified genius is on To the Beat, Southern Girl, and Steal My Soul. To the Beat , one of Q-Tip's first completely solo tracks, is so perfect. "It's balanced" is what one of the liner notes reads, and for those of you who have heard Tip's other solo release Vivrant Thing you'll know how wack he can get without Phife to balance his voice and style. So Night Riders and To the Beat are really tight tracks, but when Rahzel wants to show the breadth of his knowledge and skills he turns to more complex shit (note that all the "music" on those two tracks was created by Rahzel's mouth and certainly complex). Southern Girl is so simple and raw that I couldn't believe it the first time I heard it. Erykah Badu is the vocalist and Rahzel does all the beats. They make a serious duo. During our interview (sorry it's never gonna get printed and it's all my fault) he told me that he and Badu did that whole track in one take and in real time! Steal My Soul features Branford Marsalis and Me'shell Ndegeocello and is possibly a perfect track. Just check it out.

Afro-pop on Jupiter

BY J ROTHMAN

"The Message is about life, adventure, love..." Alpha Yaya Diallo explains casually of his latest album, a 1999 Juno winner for Best World Music Album, while he, the group and I await the pre-show meal at Felicita's.

"We always get people dancing, that is what we like to see", echoes Joseph Ashon, percussionist and dancer extraordinaire. Diallo, the group's namesake as well as its singer, guitarist and head chef, acts as the visible force behind the group's infectious worldbeat groove. No stranger to Victoria's musical stages, Diallo recently shared the stage of the Victoria Curling Club with reggae legend Jimmy Cliff. Saturday's Vertigo date here in Victoria follows up the band's Canada-wide tour which included stints at the Montreal and Toronto Jazz Festivals as well as the Regina and Edmonton Folk Festivals. After Saturday, Diallo and his entourage (an airtight rhythm section of bass, drums, and Ashon's percussion) are scheduled to bring their brand of good vibe Afro funk pop style to the fourth Annual Chicago World Music Festival. From there they can only continue to satisfy the crowds with tunes from The Message, along with their earlier works — Future, the 1997 Juno winner for Best World Music album, and 1994's Nene.

These excellent albums are available on Wicklow Records, and additional information can be found on the group at www.wicklowrecords.com.

•••

A September's Saturday night in Victoria. The doors to Vertigo, UVic's virtual on-campus hotspot, swing wide open. Inside, the crowd–a funky and mellow bunch–chats and drinks happily, a relaxing preliminary to the show's commencement. At about 10:30 p.m. , Alpha Yaya Diallo and his ensemble take to the stage. The entire group is dressed in traditional dress. Colourful and loose, but tasteful and trés comfy-looking (Diallo's outfit is crowned by his ever-present GAP baseball cap). The place is ready to boogie.

After a short guitar introduction, Diallo and his group launch their musical flight path for the night. It takes approximately a few bars of funk, a nibble of pounding, upbeat, lively rhythms to get nearly all the crowd out of their seats and onto the dance floor. By the end of the third number (of only the first set), a sweaty, grinning crowd has fueled the music's energetic, positive, how-can-you-not-be-having-fun vibrations back upon itself.

It is a night when few can resist the urge to blissfully dance barefoot to the music: Diallo's intricate, brightly inventive guitars and smooth voice, perfectly complimented by the heavy bass and rattling drumbeats are able to push through even the dourest—or is that drunkest?—of demeanours. True to form, percussionist Joseph Ashon's love of dance comes shining through. When not playing his djembe, Ashon is seen dancing and leaping, jumping and jacknifing, and generally gettin' funky.

Diallo puts his axe down and joins him for show-stopping bass percussion jams that ended both sets., leaving the crowd begging for more. Truly a great band to just groove on out with, Alpha Yaya Diallo's show proved that theirs is a group that is never without an overpowering, positivelty danceable pulse.

Joseph Ashon, percussionist for Alpha Yaya Diallo, leaps into the air at Vertigo on Saturday night.

Martlet photo by Andi Eslamboli

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Who's afraid of the big bad woods?

BY BEN VORST

WINNIPEG (CUP)–With this summer's the Blair Witch Project, people are once again flocking to the cinema to be petrified by the idea of isolation.

Coincidentally, it was almost 30 years ago that a similar form of terror haunted movie-goers and kept them from going camping for quite a while.

Deliverance, the film that brought us the infamous line "Squeal like a pig!", hit the screen in 1970, nearly three decades ago. The popularity of Blair Witch, however, has shown us that what scared us back then is still frightening today.

The premise, for those of you who have been fortunate enough not to have seen the Burt Reynolds vehicle, is about a group of thirty-something city-boys who embark on a leisurely trip down an isolated river to "get away from it all." Their vacation soon turns into a nightmare, though, when they get lost. Their opprobrium is intensified when they find themselves as the target of terror for some local hillbillies, toothless mountain-men who would "have their way" with the polished metropolites.

It's important to remember that, at the time of the movie's release, homosexual sex on the screen was rare, let alone man-on-man rape. Ned Beatty's stunned, ghastly expression as he was violated, pierced right through the eyeball of the viewers and straight into their brains, into the parts of their psyches that, when accessed, were shaken shut by shivers up the spine.

Why was this image so much more unsettling than anything that had preceded it? I'm not in a position to answer that. My guess is that it lies somewhere between the destruction of sexual violation and the patriarchal nature of our society. What is clear to me, however, is that Deliverance was much more disturbing than Blair Witch.

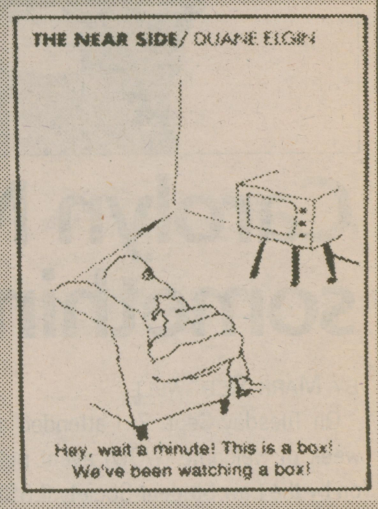
Before any assumptions are made, let me tack on this precursor: my opinion is not based on some homophobic fear or a feeling that homosexual rape is somehow more "immoral" than heterosexual assaults. I have yet to be able to watch a male-against-female rape scene in its entirety, while the scene with Ned Beatty I was able to dismiss more easily.

What, to me, was more disturbing about the former of the two films was that the perpetrators in Deliverance were human: Charicaturish, but human. The Blair Witch, with all its frightening attributes, and all the folklore surrounding its gruesome deeds, was no more than a legend. The atrocities on the riverbank (Deliverance) seem, even with their absurdity, a reminder to the evils of which men are capable. These are crimes that are committed by creatures that, at least in the beginning, are made up of the same stuff we are. That, my friends, is scarier than any old witch.

blood on the dance floor

TV = uniformity and apathy

BY LEAH ABRAMSON



I am a first year student, a recovering television addict, and I am living in residence. Among the many odd things I have noticed about residence life is the number of people who regularly occupy the lounges watching T.V. I can fully understand the appeal of television: Escapism appeals to everyone, and unfortunately the T.V. is one of the most brainwashing of distractions readily available. On occasion I have sat in on these brain-draining sessions, only to find myself attempting to communicate with my fellow zombies. Obviously no one responded, and I felt rejected, consoling myself with a line from a Moxy Fruvous song, "No one talks when the T.V.'s on..." Instead of learning everyone's name, students were staring into a large glowing box. I felt disturbed at the lack of communication, but this is only a small part of why you and the people you love should stop watching T.V. It is not the programming that affects you most.

For the past few weeks I have been reading a book about the evils of television, and it has opened my eyes to many things that I have either overlooked or tried to ignore. For instance, do you ever wonder why you buy the things you do, or why you choose to buy one product over another? Look no further than the advertising on T.V. Do you think that you really decide what you wear? There are clothing commercials that are extremely influencing, and by looking at the people on campus, I can tell they are effective. Take the new Gap ad that I recently saw: Twenty or so attractive young people sitting in identical clothing all singing the same song. Then the cheeky punch line: "Everyone in Cords." Apparently diversity is no longer the spice of life; it's uniformity and apathy. Perhaps this blatant manipulation isn't as bad as the more subtle kinds of advertising. Is it better to realise that we are being capitalized on by large corporations, or is ignorance sweet khaki bliss?

While you are contemplating advertising, or rather trying not to contemplate it, realise that you may not be getting the whole truth on the news (this includes radio and newspapers). Remember the Gulf War? The sanctions that continue to be imposed upon Iraq by the West are killing many more people than the war ever did. The lack of coverage on this topic by mainstream media is not simply ignorance. Since all networks share Pentagon-supplied coverage, the reports are biased. There is a great need for media with a wider scope and different sources.

So my plea to everyone, especially the first-year students in residence is to make your lounge a T.V. free zone, or at least try to talk to one another. If you're feeling anti-social, read a book. Above all if you do watch T.V., even for pure entertainment value, don't take it seriously.

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Fun 'n' games with campus intramurals

By Craig Battle

Hitting the weight-room and making casual remarks to the person next to you during a set on the bench is not the only way to both keep fit and meet people at the University of Victoria.

With just one look at UVic's Athletics and Recreational Services' calendar, anybody can find enough extra-curricular activities to keep busy for the entire year.

Inside are sections dedicated to aquatics, dance, fitness and lifestyle, martial arts, racquet sports, strength training and outdoor recreation. But the hands-down winner for fun and fitness is without a doubt, intramural activities.

Intramurals give students the chance to get involved in a team atmosphere, offering something for everyone at prices cheaper than similar programs at community rec centres. Whether you're a Mario Lemieux protege out for blood on the hockey rink or an armchair quarterback up for some easy-going flag football, you're in the right spot.

UVic offers traditional sports like basketball, indoor and outdoor soccer, field hockey, ice hockey, softball and volleyball, as well as ball hockey, flag football and ultimate.

Most activities are offered at different levels of competition- recreational, intermediate and competitive- to account for different levels of ability. Leagues are also set into specific gender standards: co-ed (no more than two-thirds of one gender can participate), men or women only, and open (no gender specifications).

Competitive sports utilize referees to avoid violent mishaps between opposing players over fouls and rule violations. Student officials are always in demand and paid according to the sport and level of play.

Teams who sign up are required to pick a name and some of last year's best include, "At Least We're Cute," "Phat Elma Lovin'" and "The Mexican Drunks."

Participants are advised to think of a team handle before the sign-up date.

And don't sweat it if none of your friends like your sport or you don't know many people on campus. The intramural directors create "singles" teams for individuals who sign up alone.

On top of league play, organisers plan several weekend tournaments, which include three-on-three basketball, floor hockey and tennis.

And to help you improve your skills, experienced players and coaches put on clinics in most sports at intervals throughout the year.

So, unless you like exchanging nods and sideways glances with potential acquaintances over the abductor machine at your local gym, make yours UVic recreations.

Registration for fall intramurals runs until Friday, Sept. 17 (one day after *Martlet* publication) - so hurry up. The intramural office is located in the UVic Gordon Head Complex, room 123. And once signed up, check out the *Martlet* starting this October for your team's stats and standings.

Furious ultimate intramural action from the summer of '99.

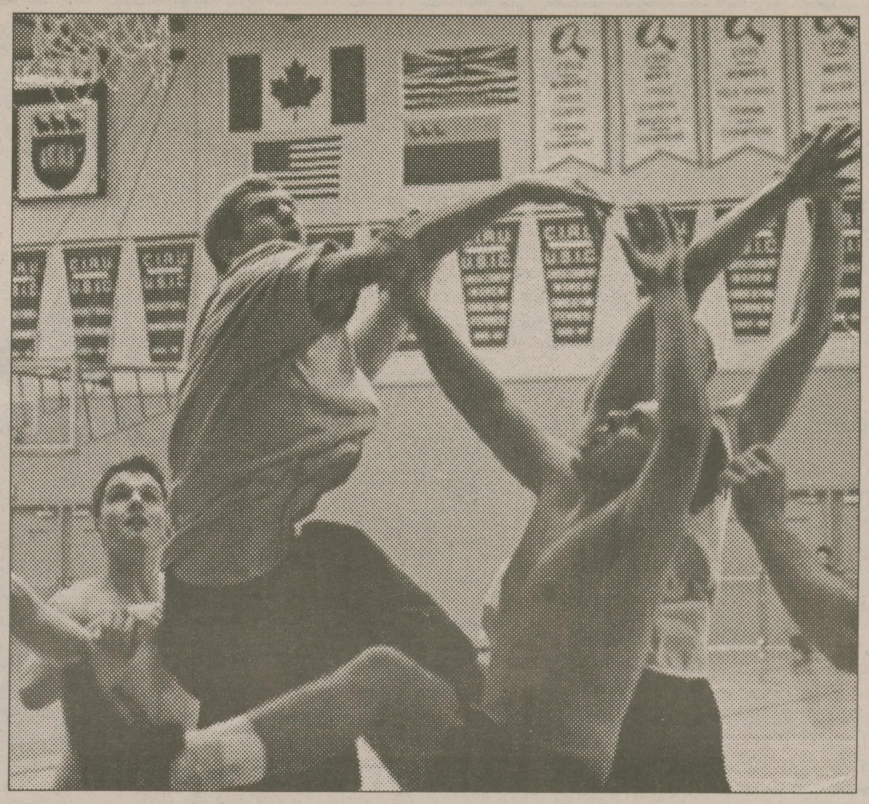
Photo submitted

In preparation for the upcoming intramural season, which will be entirely documented in the *Martlet*, we thought we should print the winners from the summer leagues. And the winners were:

Ball hockey - Newfie Bullets
Ultimate - Ju-Jubes of Doom
Softball - (Monday) The Farm
- (Wednesday) Shaghai Noodles
- (Thursday) Rec N Crew
Basketball - Freelance Bombers
Soccer - The Good Team
Inline Hockey - Singles I
Beach Volleyball - (Men's Doubles) Juice's Revenge
- (Triples) Singles II

The Good Team pose for a group shot after capturing the summer intramural soccer championship.

Photo submitted



Memories from the fall '98 intramural basketball finals.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

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UVic middle distance teams are on the blocks for success

By Craig Battle

So what's next?

That's what Brent Fougner, head coach of the UVic men's and women's middle distance teams, has got to be asking himself about now.

Last year, the women's side went from underdogs to champions winning the gold medal at the CIAU cross-country championships, under sensational performances from First Team All-Canadians Barbara Brych and Stephanie Mills, who finished third and sixth respectively, and Second Team All-Canadian Larissa Managh, who finished 14th.

The team held stride moving on to the Canada West and CIAU indoor championships. The women took away six medals from Canada West, including a win in the 4x800 metre relay that would be the team's fourth gold. The CIAUs in Montreal were just as successful as the team came out with five medals including Brych's double gold performance in the 1500 and 3000m races, and Managh's double silver performance in the 1000 and 1500m.

The men's team has won the CIAU national championship four out of the last five years, placing third in 1998-1999. Having lost several key athletes to graduation or injury, including team leaders Jim Finlayson and Graham Cocksedge, the team received key performances from newcomers and underrated runners to grab the bronze.

UVic women's middle distance team display their CIAU championship banner.

Photo submitted

First-year runner Bruno Mazzotta, placed 13th at the CIAU cross-country championships, earning a CIAU rookie of the year award in the process, while Alex Coffin improved his 1997 placing of 27th to 12th in 1998, crossing the line as the top Vike.

And a definite boost for the team this year– as if it needed one– will be the return of Cocksedge, the bronze medallist at the CIAUs in 1997, who sat out last year with an injury. Fougner is confident in Cocksedge's abilities and labels him a favourite for medalling at the CIAUs along with Mazzotta.

Other prospects include two outstanding athletes from the high school provincial championships last year. Salmon Arm's Craig Babiuk, who Fougner names as the top B.C. high school prospect, will join the team this year as well as his former high school competitor, Kris Swanson from Tumbler Ridge.

The women's Vikes are a definite favourite to repeat as CIAU champs as the team remains largely unchanged, losing only two members from last year's team.

Fougner lists Andrea Dick, a transfer student from the University of Saskatchewan, Pam Bennet and Jenny Foreman as runners who have enough talent to make this year's squad. All three were at UVic last year but had to sit out due to various reasons.

Among several awards the team received last year, three UVic runners were chosen for international meets outside of Canada. Brych and Mazzotta attended the World Championships in Belfast. Brych, along with Mills, also represented Canada in the Seoul Ekiden in Korea.

And on top of all his team's successes, coach Fougner accepted his fifth straight CIAU coach of the year award for this past season.

So you want to know what's next for the men's and women's middle distance teams? I don't know... Disneyland?

Liquor, wasps and B.C. wilderness

By Jessica Weirmier

I held a bottle of white tequila in my left hand and stood in the middle of the liquor store looking perplexed. In no time at all, a BCL employee directed me to the bottle of sambuca that I was searching for. With the first part of my mission accomplished, I then packed up the tent, Thermarest and sleeping bag and headed north towards Duncan. Our camping trip's theme was "Hard Liquor;" I was fully prepared to go above and beyond the call of camping duty.

If you're looking for a great place to camp and hang out with your friends, the Pine Point campsite on Lake Cowichan just might be what you need. It's only about a 45 minute to one hour drive outside of Victoria – just far enough to make you feel like you're actually 'getting away.' To get there, drive north on the Trans Canada Highway. Just past Duncan turn left onto Highway 18 and head to Youbou. Drive through Youbou – don't blink, you might miss it – and drive onto the gravel logging roads. Keep your headlights on and remember to drive defensively. If you figure out what driving defensively on a logging road means, please let me know. It's a pretty bumpy road, so be prepared to have your tape player go 'wonky.' Pine Point is roughly a ten minute drive down the logging road.

We fought an epic battle with some very rough-looking, pissed-off backwoods wasps. No one was seriously stung. Countless wasps died.

The campsite is run by the forestry reserve and only costs ten dollars per car each night. I've found they are fairly lax about enforcing fees and you may find that if your camp party is cool – in the 'well-behaved' sense – they'll be pretty cool too. Of the three times I camped there this summer, I've only paid once.

If you get there before the other weekend campers arrive, you'll probably get one of the beach campsites. These are pretty choice sites, so arrive early on Friday. The campsite's checkout times are around 12 noon.

The water is clean and mountain fresh, but there are a few downfalls both in the lake and on the sight. First, bring a pair of sandals (that you don't mind getting wet) because the beaches are extremely rocky. Second, the view is only slightly marred by clearcut hillsides, but If the nights are clear, you can practically grab the Milky Way. Third, I'd give the outhouses a 4.5 out of 10 on the 'outhouse stink scale' and there are no garbage cans anywhere, so be well prepared to pack your garbage away with you.

And finally, we come to the insects.

We fought an epic battle with some very rough looking, pissed-off backwoods wasps. No one was seriously stung. Countless wasps died.

The homemade wasp trap is every September camper's best friend, so listen up. Here's how you put it together:

Cut the top of a plastic pop bottle off, turn it upside-down and set it into the rest of the bottle. Keep some pop inside the bottle. The wasps crawl down the inverted bottleneck, becoming trapped inside. We added a shot of sambuca so they'd die happy. And while you still have time, check out Pine Point, it's a great place to camp.

And don't let the wasps scare you away.

SOS
went for lunch wasn't very good send help now
SOS... International call for 'HELP'
You went somewhere else for lunch and wish you had come to Maude Hunters.
Next time, make it Maude's.
Great food! Great service!
Part of a complete education.
Two blocks off campus.
MAUDE HUNTER'S PUB
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SUPER CHANCE
"IN THE HEART OF JAMES BAY"
SAVE THAT BEER MONEY BY SHOPPING AT SUPER CHANCE FOR ALL OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD NEEDS.
ROBBIE DUROSE.99.
CAMPUS PUB
10% OFF
WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR STUDENT I.D.
HOUSEHOLD CONSIGNMENT ACCEPTED WED. THRU SAT. 10-NOON & 1-4
NEW BATH, KITCHEN, AND GIFT ITEMS.
CONSIGNMENT, HOUSEHOLD GOODS.
10-435 SIMCOE ST. 385-2523

on-campus

The Women's Publication Network is now accepting submissions for our next issue on the theme of women and working. Please drop off submissions before September 24 in the WPN box in the Women's Centre SUB B107, maximum length 1000 words. All are welcome to our meetings, drop by the Women's Centre for more details.

Questioning type? Prefer to make up own mind about the big issues in life? Looking for an alternative religious path? Maybe you are an Unitarian without knowing it. Check this out: "What is Unitarianism?" Interfaith Chapel, **Saturday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m. All welcome, including already Unitarians!

Catholic Students' Association-Club hike up Mt. Doug on Sunday **September 19**, 1-3 p.m. Catholic Students' Fall retreat **October 1-3**, Thetis Island. For more info about these events, contact Kate at kfagan@uvic.ca or 721-8339. Visit our web page at http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/~catholic/ to find out more!

The UVic Medieval Club SAGM will be held **September 20th** in the Clubsroom in the SUB, B023 @ 7 p.m.

The Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery, in conjunction with UVic Archives and Special Collections, is proud to present, **"A History of the Gordon Head Campus Land"**: a chronological study of the various occupants and uses of the land before it became a modern university campus in 1963. This exhibit is located in the McPherson Library Gallery, from **September 29 to October 29**.

UVic Women's Rugby team is now trialing. Practices are on field 3/4 **Mondays** at 6 p.m. & **Wednesdays** at 5 p.m. On **Fridays** practice is on Wallace field at 5 p.m. Phone Jack at 360-4022 or Rachuel at 881-8357 for more information.

off-campus

Bridge–the world's greatest card game. Free introductory class, Saturday, **September 11,** 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Near UVic. Pre-register with Margaret at 477-7283.

The Fernwood Community will be holding its annual celebration, **FERN FEST**, on **September 25.** The festival will be held at the Fernwood Community Square from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be music & entertainment by local performers, kids' games & activities, community market, and plenty of food and drink. Call 381-1552 for more details.

Interested in playing **field hockey**? Come out and join the **Rebels Sports Club**. We have both mens' and womens' teams for various levels. Mens' teams contact Lorne @ 383-1978, Womens' teams contact Shannon @ 478-4914.

The Downtown Community Activity Centre has a variety of events to keep you busy, including fall lantern making workshops, floor hockey night, basketball night, African modern dance & much more. Call 383-0076 for more info & schedules.

Victoria Gay Pride Society wants to hear from you! We're having our annual general meeting at the G-Spot, 1910 Store Street, on **Sunday, October 3**, 1999 from 4 to 5 p.m. It will be your first opportunity to make suggestions as to what can be done for Pride 2000!

for sale

For Sale or Trade, a 22' Bayliner Buccaneer sailboat. Fiberglass & sea-worthy. $3,500. Call 889-3361.

Single roll-away cot, excellent condition $100 o.b.o. Single foam mattress $20 o.b.o. Clean, good quality, will deliver. 477-5572.

volunteers

The **Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre** is currently accepting applications for the next crisis line volunteer training in October. Women interested in making a commitment to helping individuals affected by sexual assault and sexual abuse call 383-5545 to obtain an application. Application deadline **September 13th**.

Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a mentor to an elementary school student. Visit your student one hour per week at school & play games, sports, do arts & crafts, bake or pursue other activities. For more info, call Bonnie at Big Brothers & Big Sisters at 475-1117, Ext. 303.

Volunteers wanted (female & male) to work with groups of pre-teens in a fun-focused program for prevention of drug abuse. One to two hours a week, with training provided. Call Sylvia at the Blanshard Community Centre, 388-7696.

The breakup of a relationship can be difficult for anyone. Feelings of anxiety, depression, loneliness, anger, guilt, confusion, self-doubt and fear are commonly experienced and can be quite painful.

I am a graduate student in Counselling at the University of Victoria and am launching a study on the effectiveness of a short-term journal writing program for university and college students who are recovering from the breakup of their relationship. If you are interested in participating in this free program and would like further details, please contact me, Jessica Altrows, at 370-0345, or e-mail me at jaltrows@uvic.ca. All calls and e-mails will be kept confidential.

announcements

Diotima Philosophy Discussion Group alternate Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. Room 932 Balmoral, starting September 20th. Maximum 20 per group. $3 per session. Facilitator David Mercer Ph. D. Pre-registration advisable. Call 595-5097 for register or for more details.

help wanted

Childcare needed for 19 mo. old. Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. Approx. 8 hours weekly. $10 per hour. Prefer ECE student or grad. First Aid certificate required. Only stable, caring person need apply. Call Annette or Todd for more information @ 595-7407.

The Martlet is looking for staff, volunteers, writers, photographers, production people, people who want to experience entertaining chaos in the basement of the SUB. Drop by the office or come to monday or thursday meetings at 4:30 p.m.

employment services

TRAVEL – teach English: 5 day/40 hr, Nov. 17 - 21 '99 TESOL teacher cert. course (or by corresp.). 1,000's of jobs avail. NOW. FREE info pack, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

hey you

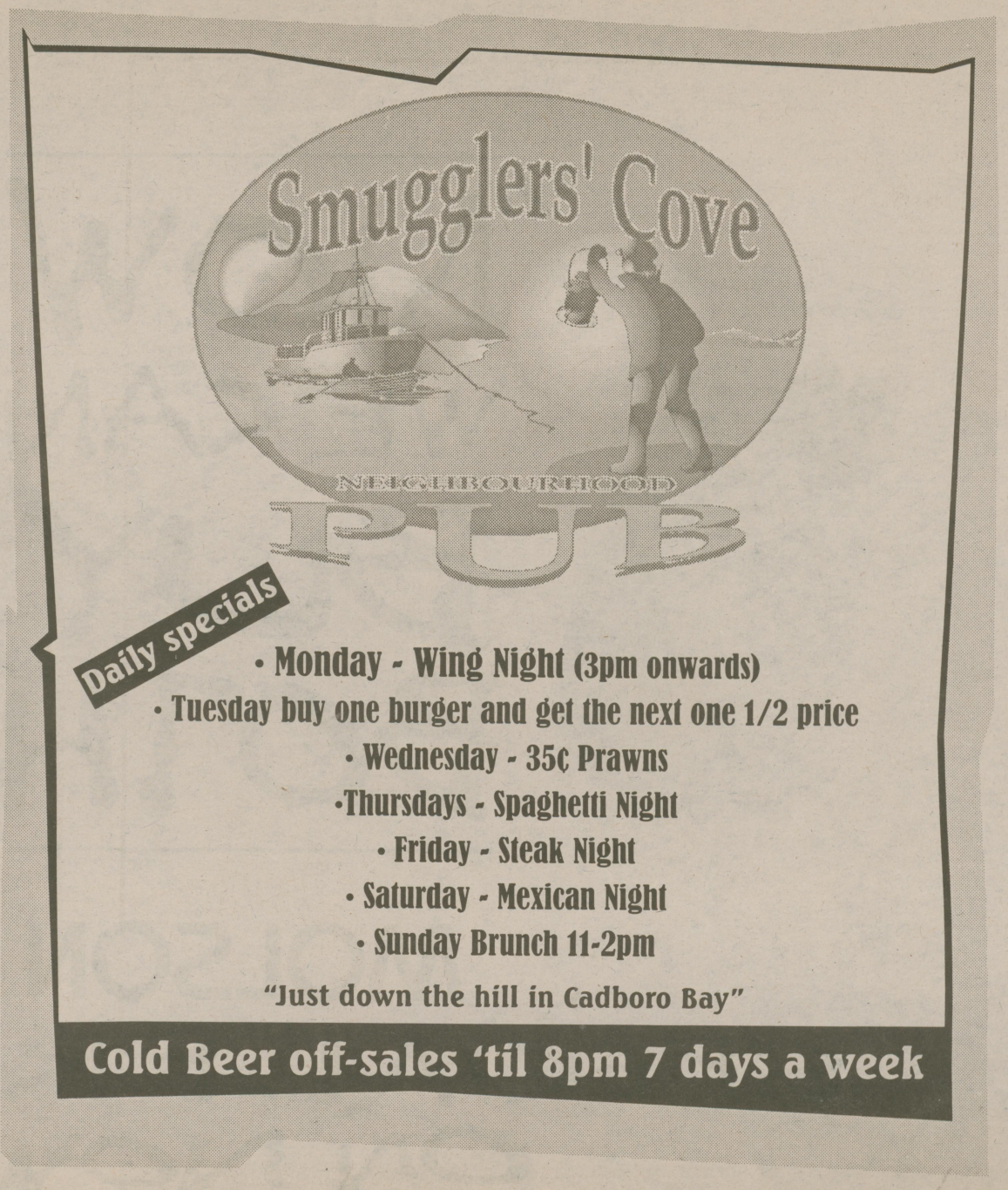
RON, you are a handsome 34 year old Black man, transferred from Memphis, Tennessee, to the Electrical Engineering department at UVic. I am the red-haired woman you met on September 3rd, who would like to see you again. You can contact me on my sister's pager @ 414-3139.

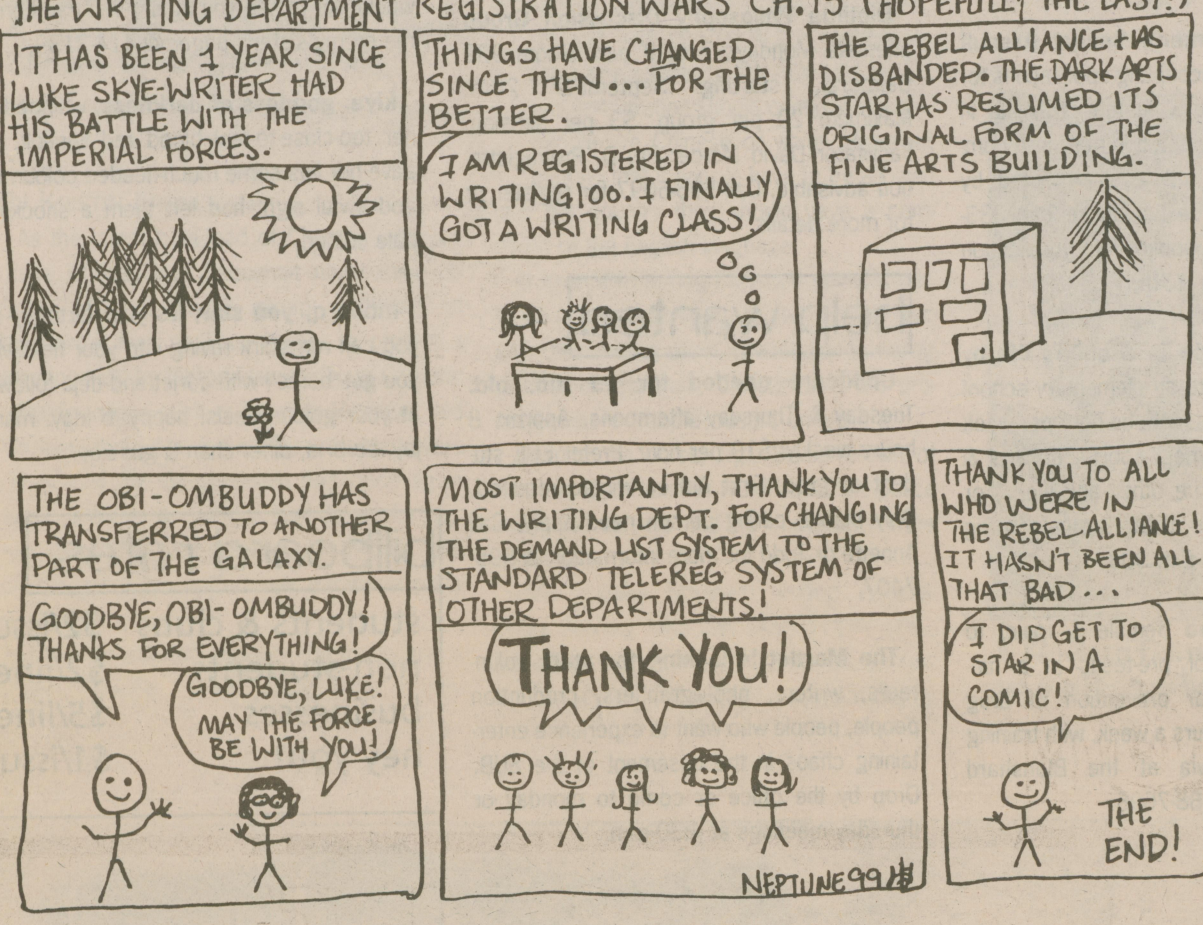
kiya, goddess of darkness, whipped out her too-close-to-real blood red lipstick, and gave her lips some much-needed colour. that god awful sight had left them a shockingly pale colour.

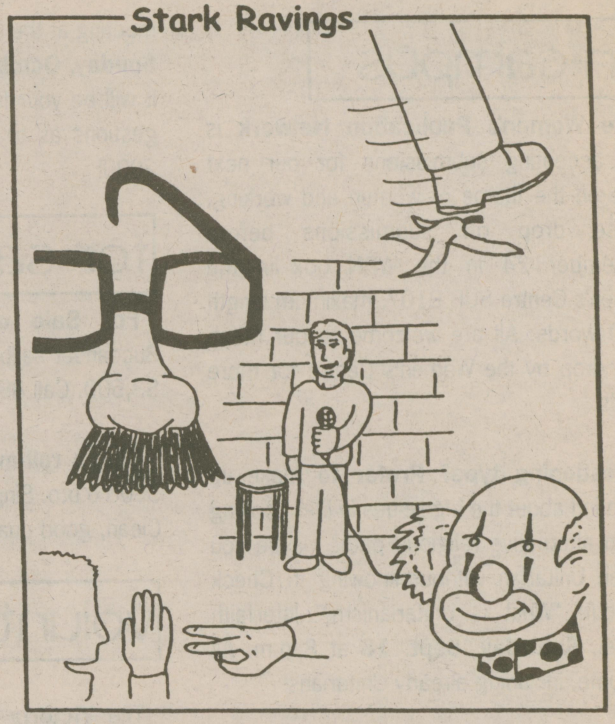
mona q, you star, it's your birthday and you can run stark raving into your field(when you get 'home') with corjet and deja following at your golden heels. happy 'b' day, marina joy, corbi-la, diner chan & gus xo.

billboard rates

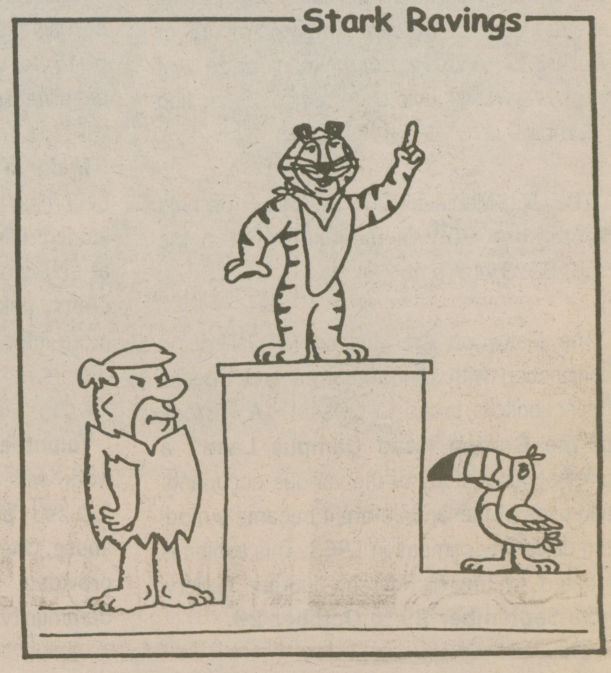
students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5/line
hey you!	$1/issue





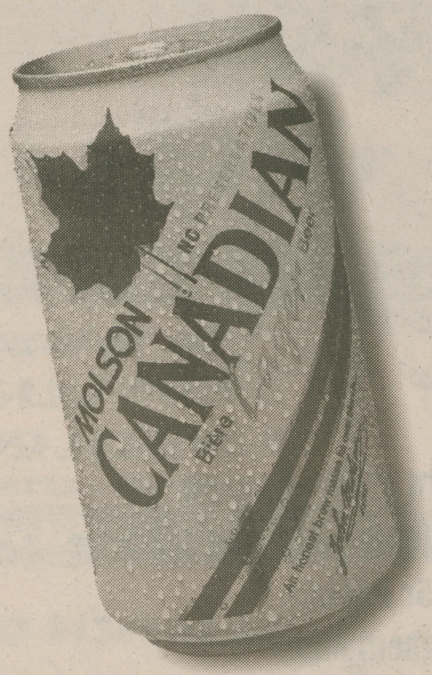


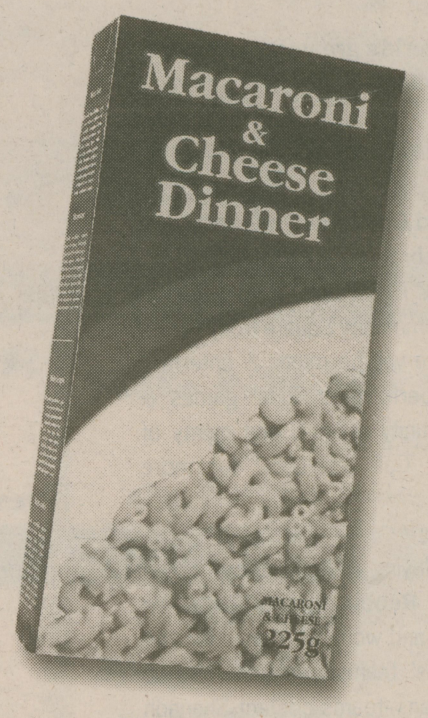
Whenever people ask me to define *humor*, I always laugh and laugh and laugh and laugh and laugh and laugh and laugh and laugh and laugh until I eventually throw up. I wish people wouldn't ask me that question.



If they ever have an Olympics for animated cereal mascots, I would bet a lot of money on Tony the Tiger™ because he seems very athletic. Besides, if he ever loses an event, he could just eat the other contestants.

"NOW WE CAN BUY BOTH"





MOLSON
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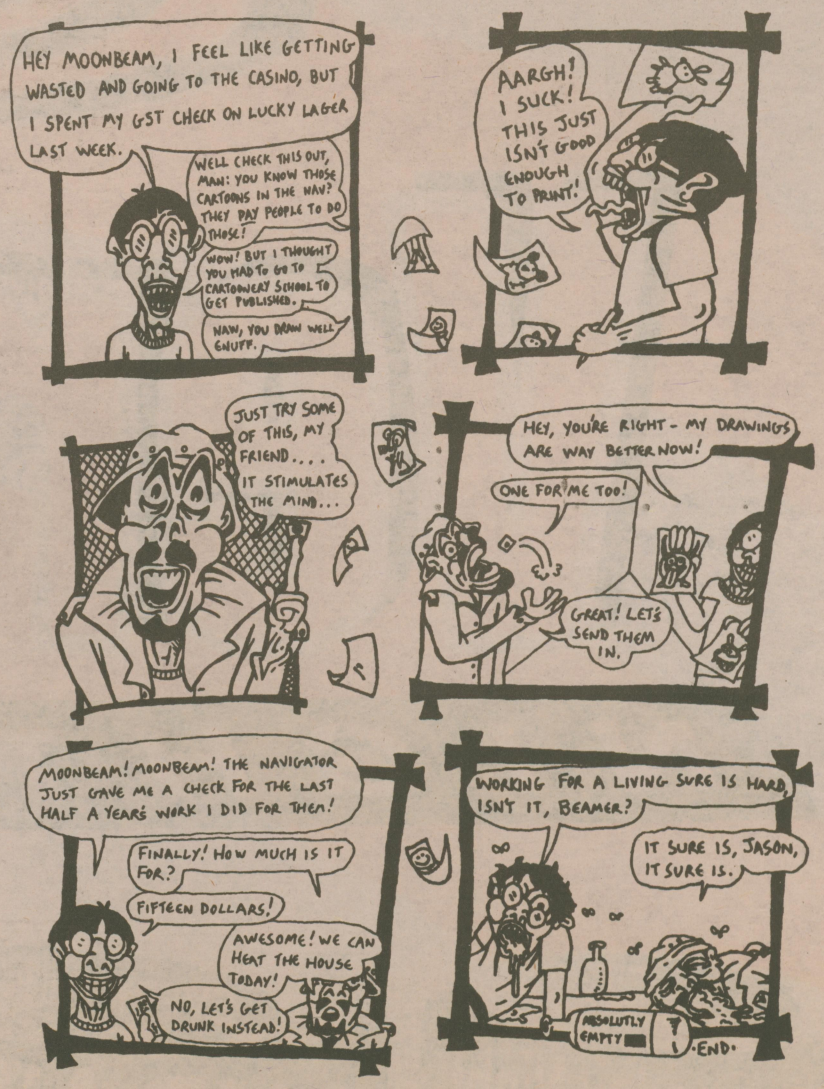
ON NOW



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Individual account may be required.

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Sept-Dec CALENDAR

Vertigo

NIGHT CLUB

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wednesday Night House Party

EVERY THURDAY
SUB NITE
80's Old Skool

FRI & SAT SEPT 17 & 18
54-40

FRI SEPT 24
Carolyn Neapole

SAT SEPT 25
THRUST

FRI OCT 1
TBA

SAT OCT 2
LIFT

TUES OCT 5
I Mother Earth

FRI OCT 15
MAESTRO

FRI OCT 22
Robert Michaels

FRI OCT 29
Ron Sexsmith
with Emm Gryner

FRI NOV 26
The Paperboys

FRI & SAT DEC 3 & 4
The Rheostatics

CFS FCE Canadian Federation of Students / Fédération canadienne des étudiants

UVSS

STUDENT UNION BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

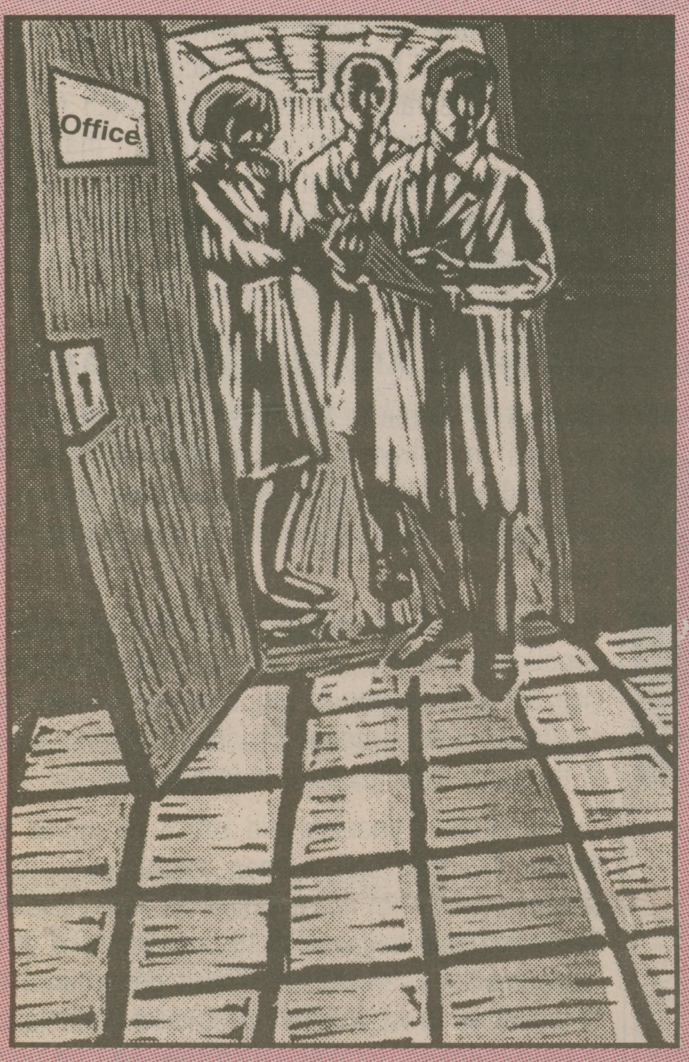
INFO 472-4311 WWW.UVSS.UVIC.CA/VERTIGO

Tixs for most events @ UVSS Info Booth & Lyles Place

Celebrating 21 years of Service at UVic

the OMBUDSPERSON report

Volume 2 Issue 1 April, 1999



What's Inside

CASE SUMMARIES 2-4

Parking Tickets

Required to Withdraw: Low GPA

Required to Withdraw: 7 Fails

Course Registration/Prerequisite

Student Loans/Financial Concerns

Financial Aid: "Rotating Loans"

Academic Dissatisfaction

Course Challenge

Graduate Student - Funding 1.

Graduate Student - Funding 2.

Transfer Credits/Requirement to Disclose

Course Registration

Academic Concession

UVic Employment

GRAPHS 4

The Office of the Ombudsperson offers a professional service, supported solely by the undergraduates of UVic, at a level of 20 hours per week. This level of service was initiated in 1978, when UVic had a student population of approximately 7,000. The student population has nearly tripled since that time, and as the present Ombudsperson goes on leave of absence a new initiative is being undertaken in the hope of better serving the university community. **Martine Conway will be ably serving UVic from May 1st through December 31, 1999, at the new level of 30 hours per week.** We look forward with excitement to this expanded Ombuds service!

I hope you will enjoy this report for Calendar 1998. Your comments would be most welcome. Please address them, along with requests for extra copies, to the UVSS Ombudsperson, 721-8357, mail to the UVSS Ombudsperson in the SUB, or email <ombuddy@uvic.ca

Kathleen Beattie

BOUQUETS

With each Ombudsperson Report, I am delighted to discover that certain people have made outstanding contributions to fairness in the lives of our UVic students.

At this time, I would particularly like to thank **Dr. Frank Robinson, Assistant Dean and Director of Arts and Science Advising** for his tireless efforts to ensure that while rigorous academic standards are upheld, it is always accomplished with compassion and understanding. While responsible for thousands of students, Dr. Robinson has unfailingly been available to hear the requests of students referred from this Office where special concerns are identified. His caring is deeply appreciated. **Thank you Frank Robinson!**

CASE SUMMARIES

PARKING TICKETS

Student "A" bought a parking pass for his motorcycle just prior to the commencement of the fall semester. "A" could not find an available "designated motorcycle" parking space near his classroom building, so parked in a "reserved" spot - and was ticketed on several occasions.

"A" appealed the tickets to the traffic appeals committee, c/o the Transportation and Parking Coordinator. His appeal was disallowed since there were "designated motorcycle" parking spaces available in other lots on campus, and "A" had only purchased the "motorcycle" parking pass. He was not entitled to expect to find a space in the nearest lot to his building, but only to find a space in one of the appropriately marked lots on campus.

Note: The lots which typically have the most **available** space throughout the year are **lot *5* (behind the Craigdarroch Residences and Office, lot 10 (behind the *P*hoenix *B*uilding), lot 3 (outside the tennis courts), and lot 7 (opposite lot 7 outside of Mc*K*enzie/*S*inclair Roads).** *L*ot surveys are carried out daily in mid-morning to ensure that spaces are still available, and where they may be found. Campus security will **not** oversell spaces.

REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW: LOW GPA

Each semester there are many students who drop below the allowable minimum grade point average, and who consequently are required to withdraw from UVic. Student "N" was one of these. During two consecutive academic years, "N" had suffered two family deaths and a serious car accident.

On appeal to the Senate Committee on Admission, Reregistration and Transfer ("SCART"), his appeal was allowed. "N" had submitted a letter outlining his situation, with supporting medical and pastoral documentation which persuaded committee members that "N" was in fact a much better risk than his academic transcript indicated for those years. "N" was allowed to reregister.

The Calendar, at p.14 outlines the normal grounds for appeal.

"Normally, grounds for appeal are limited to:

(a) Significant physical affliction or psychological distress documented by a physician or other health care professional.

(b) Evidence of serious mis-advice or errors of administration by authorized University personnel, with evidence that the appellant's studies wereadversely affected.

(c) Documented significant distress, or documented significant responsibility as a caregiver, as a result of an immediate member of the family suffering from a serious trauma or illness."

REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW - 7 FAILS

Student "C" came to the Office requesting information on returning to UVic after being required to withdraw for accumulating 7 fails.

"C" indicated that she had encountered difficulty during the 1997-98 academic year, that she had not actually been able to complete some coursework, and had only nominally attended other classes, and had failed every course.

On investigation, it was found that "C" had experienced extreme family responsibilities, particularly with regard to a parent who was depressed and suicidal in the wake of her partner's death. "C" was subsequently unable to concentrate on her academic work.

"C" was able to obtain medical and counselling documentation verifying her story, and appealed to the Assistant Dean of Arts and Science for permission to reregister. Her appeal was granted.

"C" then attempted to reregister, but was blocked by teleregistration because she still had not been cleared of the "low gpa" rule by the Senate Committee on Admission, Reregistration and Transfer (SCART). (The Dean's waiver simply overrides the 7 fail rule where circumstances warrant.)

"C" appealed by letter to SCART, and was given permission to reregister pending her final transfer of grades from Camosun.

Note: *S*tudents who have been required to withdraw because of 7 fails and additionally because of a low grade point average MU*S*T appeal both matters independently. *L*etters should indicate:

(a) the decision or act or treatment which is being appealed...;

(b) the reasons why the appellant believes the appeal should be allowed;

(c) the remedy or relief which the appellant is seeking.

(from the Calendar p.17, Appeals to the Senate)

L-R: Susan Corner -Student Affairs Officer, Kathleen Beattie -Ombusperson & Yasmin Rampuri - Communications Office Coordinator

COURSE REGISTRATION/PREREQUISITE

Student "*L*" registered for the fall term section of French 100. She had taken Grade 11 French in another province several years ago, and qualified for French 100 according to the Calendar entry (p.188) which reads "Intended for students with no more than French 11 or equivalent..."

In mid-October, representatives of the French department questioned "*L*"'s registration in French 100, and instructed her to withdraw from that course and enroll in French 160, a more challenging first year offering. "*L*" declined.

According to a non-Calendar "policy", the French department insisted that "*L*" (and others in a similar situation) should **not** have enrolled in French 100 because they had completed French 11.

After review by this Office, the Director of Records Services, and the Assistant Dean of Arts and Science, it was decided that "*L*" should receive the benefit of the Calendar policy. **All students are expected to know and abide by Calendar entries. It would therefore be unfair to allow a deviation from that rule by academic or administrative units.**

The French department is now in the process of revising its Calendar entries, so students are encouraged to study the new Calendar in order to choose appropriate courses.

STUDENT LOANS/FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Student "J" took out student loans many years ago. Ten years ago she defaulted on her loans and declared Bankruptcy. She is now back in university, and experiencing financial difficulty.

An inquiry to financial aid gleaned this information: After Bankruptcy, and a three year penalty period, a student may write to Canada Student *L*oans, and may be cleared where extenuating circumstances are proven.

However, a student with a "*L*etter of Clearance" must beware of overconfidence. That student must take his or her loan documents, with the *L*etter of Clearance, to the Bank, which then will determine eligibility for loans through that institution. The reality is that a Bank is unlikely to offer loans to a student who has previously declared Bankruptcy.

FINANCIAL AID: "ROTATING LOANS"

Student "J" came to the Office distraught because he was in extreme financial difficulty. He had received a number of tuition bursaries but on this occasion financial aid denied his request for assistance.

The Office did an investigation, and came to the conclusion that the student had misled the financial aid officer about his summer employment earnings. A BC Student Services audit had arrived at the same conclusion a month earlier.

UVic's student financial aid office struggles with limited financial and human resources. It had offered the student more tuition bursary assistance that was usual because of his medical and family responsibilities. However, it was determined that "it would be irresponsible of [student financial aid] to lend students money which they will be unable to repay in a timely fashion. To do so creates further difficulties for the students, since they have an interest-bearing loan to repay and begin their next session in a deficit position..."

This Office concurred with the decision of financial aid, and found the complaint to be unjustified.

ACADEMIC DISSATISFACTION

Student "B" emailed the Office indicating that he was taking off-campus courses toward a graduate degree.

He was concerned that the professor in one of his classes generally did not give "feedback" after student presentations, and that on one occasion "B" was graded after only a partial presentation. The professor also made certain derogatory comments in class about "B" during a class when "B" was absent.

"B" wanted an apology, and an opportunity to complete his presentation. The term subsequently concluded, and "B" prepared to initiate a grade appeal.

"B" wrote to the Chair of the department, expressing his dissatisfaction. The Chair took the matter very seriously, and prepared to fly out to the class location for the first class of the next term.

"B" indicated that a conference call with himself, his supervisor, and the Chair would be preferable, so that took place, with "B" indicating that "the discussion ... went well".

"B" still maintained that a grade review was necessary, and two independent reviewers recommended that the grade be raised from a B+ to an A- for

the course. "B" felt vindicated with this outcome.

This office congratulates the Chair on a sensitive and impartial review process.

COURSE CHALLENGE

Student "S", registered in the English department, contacted the Office with a question about her Professional Writing minor. She believed she had the knowledge and skills required to "challenge" the requirements for Writing XXX, and contacted the professor to arrange the course challenge. (For details on course challenge, see the Calendar, pp.18-19.)

The professor was concerned at the request because **after printing** the requirements for Writing XXX had been changed from those in the Calendar, and the student's knowledge, which would likely have allowed a successful challenge of the old course would not necessarily relate to the new course content.

It is the position of this Office that **significant course changes made during a student's degree completion should not adversely affect that student.** A student should always have the benefit of a choice between the program as it existed at the commencement of his/her declared program, and a "new" program entry.

In particular, where a Calendar entry exists, the student should be able to rely on the Calendar entry.

The Chair of the English department pledged his personal attention to the case, and the offering of the course challenge, and indicated that both English and Writing would thereafter review their course challenge policy.

GRADUATE STUDENT - FUNDING 1

Student "G" came to the Office with a concern arising from a discontinuation of his funding. He had begun a masters program in September 1997, with funding from his academic unit. The letter to the student read in part "assuming satisfactory performance and academic progress we hope to be able to renew your teaching assistantship for a second year".

"G"'s performance as a teaching assistant was officially reported as more than satisfactory, and his GPA was 5.75 during 1997-98. The letter of offer did not elaborate on "satisfactory ... academic progress".

In the summer of 1998, G was informed that his teaching assistantship was being terminated because of "substandard academic performance".

He appealed through the Chair of his academic unit, and the associate Dean of Graduate Studies. He was told that the policies that governed the awarding of teaching assistantships were intentionally vague to allow for a maximum of discretion.

G found employment outside the university rather than pursue his appeal further, and perhaps suffer retribution through his academic unit.

The Office will be monitoring such situations in future through the new TA Union.

GRADUATE STUDENT - FUNDING 2

Student "M" came to the Office with a concern about her funding being reduced by her academic unit. She had been assured of a baseline amount of $14,500 (fellowship) for her year of study. "M" then accepted an off-campus position (partially funded by another UVic faculty), as well as a position waitressing in a hotel for eight hours per week, to supplement this income. She continued all of her research and TA commitments as before.

Her supervisor reduced her funding by the amount of her outside employment.

"M" disputed the supervisor's right to reduce funding since she was still producing the same amount of work within the academic unit.

The Chair of the academic unit was invited to participate in discussions with "M" and her supervisor. A resolution was reached, and the student was satisfied that she would receive her baseline funding **plus** a sum for her outside "academic" work.

The recommendation from this Office is that funding arrangements for graduate students in all units be clarified and put in writing before the commencement of work and study. Such written clarification will in large measure eliminate the misunderstandings articulated in the above two cases.

TRANSFER CREDITS/REQUIREMENT TO DISCLOSE

UVic has an absolute requirement that all students disclose every other post-secondary institution attended. Failure to disclose may result in registration at UVic being summarily reversed.

Student "A" did attend a number of post-secondary institutions in several parts of the world. He applied to, and was accepted by UVic, and requested his transcripts to be forwarded from each institution.

When the transcripts were being processed, it was noted that "A" had not listed each of the institutions on his UVic application. The student was sent a notice of "failure to disclose" which brought him to the Office for assistance.

"A" explained that he had not tried to hide attendance at any of his previous institutions. Rather, because of family problems in his home in the Pacific Rim, he simply was not able to manage the detail required by the application. As proof of his integrity he did indicate that all transcripts had been forwarded in good faith prior to his acceptance at UVic.

On appeal to the Director of Records Services it was determined that the student had simply made an error on his application, and that it was the result of multiple stressors rather than a deliberate effort to deceive. The matter was resolved, and transfer credit assigned for courses completed elsewhere.

There is a rumour that the UVSS Ombudsperson has superhuman powers.
The rumour has little truth in it!
In fact, it is students themselves who make the biggest difference.
Witness the efforts of Luke Skye-Writer...

Student "J" used a novel approach to bring this unique practice to the attention of the appropriate Chair and Dean. Thank you!
Thanks also to the Chair of Writing and the Dean of Fine Arts for changing the "demand list" system of earlier years to a standard telereg waitlist for September 1999!

COURSE REGISTRATION

Student "V" contacted the Office with a complaint about course registration. His problem was that the "course add" deadline had passed. He had attended a couple of the classes and told the Office that both the instructor and "V" felt he could catch up on the readings. When the course add was denied by the Associate Dean of Arts and Science "V" was upset and angry. He indicated that he had permission of the instructor to add the course.

Unfortunately, this kind of "permission" is not within the authority of a professor, and although the prof could "recommend", it is unlikely that the course add deadline would be extended without extenuating circumstances (typically sickness or family affliction).

In this case "V" was reinstated in a class which he had dropped to make room for his anticipated "course add", and thus was not prejudiced.

ACADEMIC CONCESSION

Student "M" came to the Office in the spring. He had been registered in an 8-month course through winter session, but had been ill with pneumonia and consequently missed a number of classes. Because of the scheduling (the class was in 3-hour blocks), missing three or four sessions meant missing a substantial part of the course.

"M" was invited to attend the summer section of the course and complete all assignments and other course components as a form of academic concession. The department offered this option as a "deferral" which meant no fees were assessed for the summer section of the course.

"M" was upset that he was being required to attend all classes and complete all of the assignments. His contention was that he had already completed some parts of the course, and should not have to redo them.

Further, he indicated that although attendance was expected at all classes, not all students did in fact attend.

The instructor indicated that the course was an integral whole, and that "M" needed to do all the components in sequence, in order to truly integrate the learning.

In the judgment of this Office, "M" had indeed been sick, and had supporting documentation during the winter session. "M" therefore was entitled to an academic concession.

However, the nature of the academic concession offered is at the discretion of the academic unit. Options may include back-dated drops, alternative course components, deferral of course completion, and other possibilities. A student is wise to indicate his or her preferences with reasons, but is not entitled to demand a specific option.

For that reason, "M"'s position was found to be unjustified. He did complete the course successfully, and was permitted to continue in his program.

UVIC EMPLOYMENT

Student "X" was hired to work with children in one of UVic's many summer "camps". Two months before the start of the program "X" was told that the duration of the employment was six weeks, and that training (of staff) would be one week prior to the start of the camp.

About 10 days before the camp started, "X" was told (by her supervisor) enrolment in the camps was down, and that there was not enough work to keep all the staff employed.

The criteria for determining which staff would work and when were not clarified for the summer staff.

Since "X" had made her summer arrangements (lodging etc.) based on the understanding of this 6 weeks' employment, and had turned down other employment for the same period, she was very upset with the change in plans.

Investigation with the "employer" indicated that the employment arrangements were very "loose". There was a large turnover in "permanent" staff, and consequently the supervisor was not in possession of some critical information.

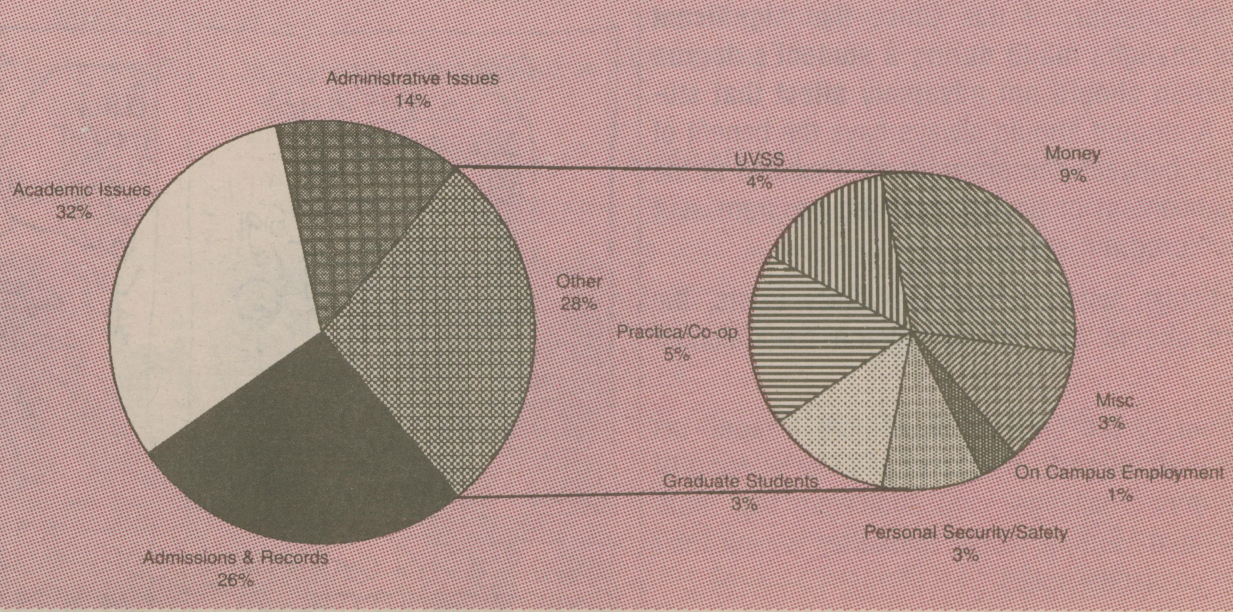
The "manager" of the unit was not available to assist because of his own summer holidays.

It is the recommendation of this Office that ALL employment arrangements be written before the commencement of employment.

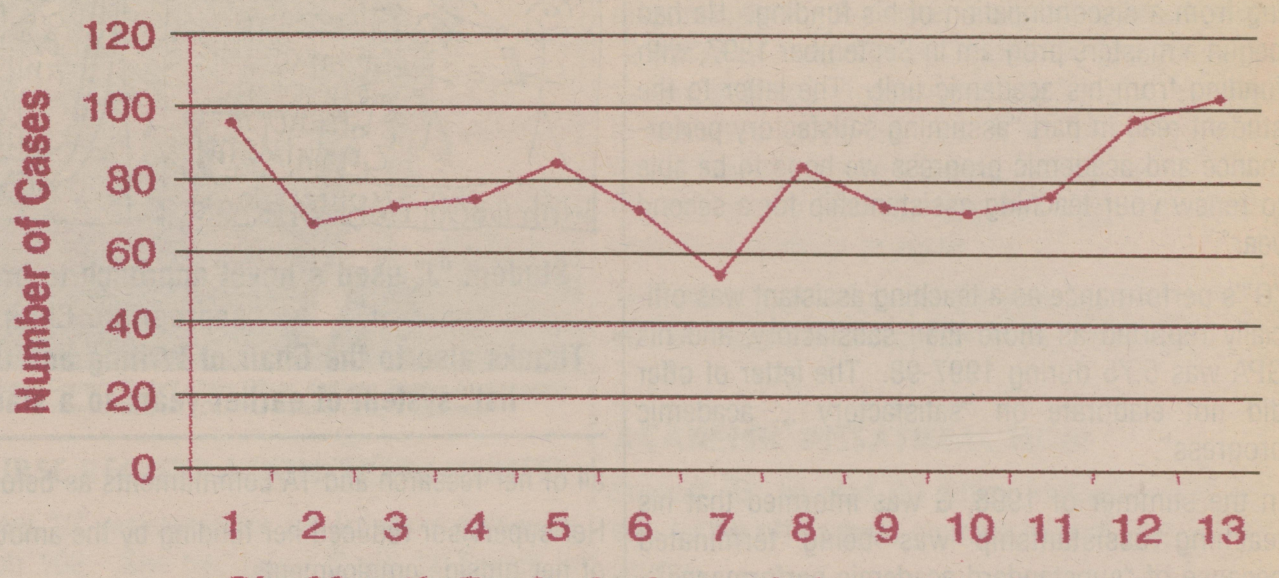
If there is uncertainty in any of the terms of the arrangements, that is a matter for the consideration of both parties in deciding whether or not an individual might be offered, or accept, employment.

Verbal "contracts" of employment inevitably lead to misunderstanding, and should never constitute the basis of employment within the university.

Subject Matter of Complaints



Total Number of Cases



Six Month Periods from July 1992 - Dec. 1998

Reports are required to be made to the Ombuds Advisory Committee for each six month period from January through June and July through December. This report (Vol.2, Issue 1) encompasses the 2 reports from January through December 1998.

THE UVSS OMBUDSPERSON ADVISORY COMMITTEE is presently constituted of the following members:

Chair, UVSS Director of Academics	(until April 30) Anita Zaenker (from May 1) Kari Worton
Student Senator	Ritu Mahil
Two Students at Large	John Trueman Chris Dobson
Two members of Faculty	Wanda Boyer, Education Vacant
Administrative Professional Staff	Lauren Charlton
Administrative Coordinator	Doug Ausman
Ombudsperson	(until April 16) Kathleen Beattie (from April 5) Martine Conway

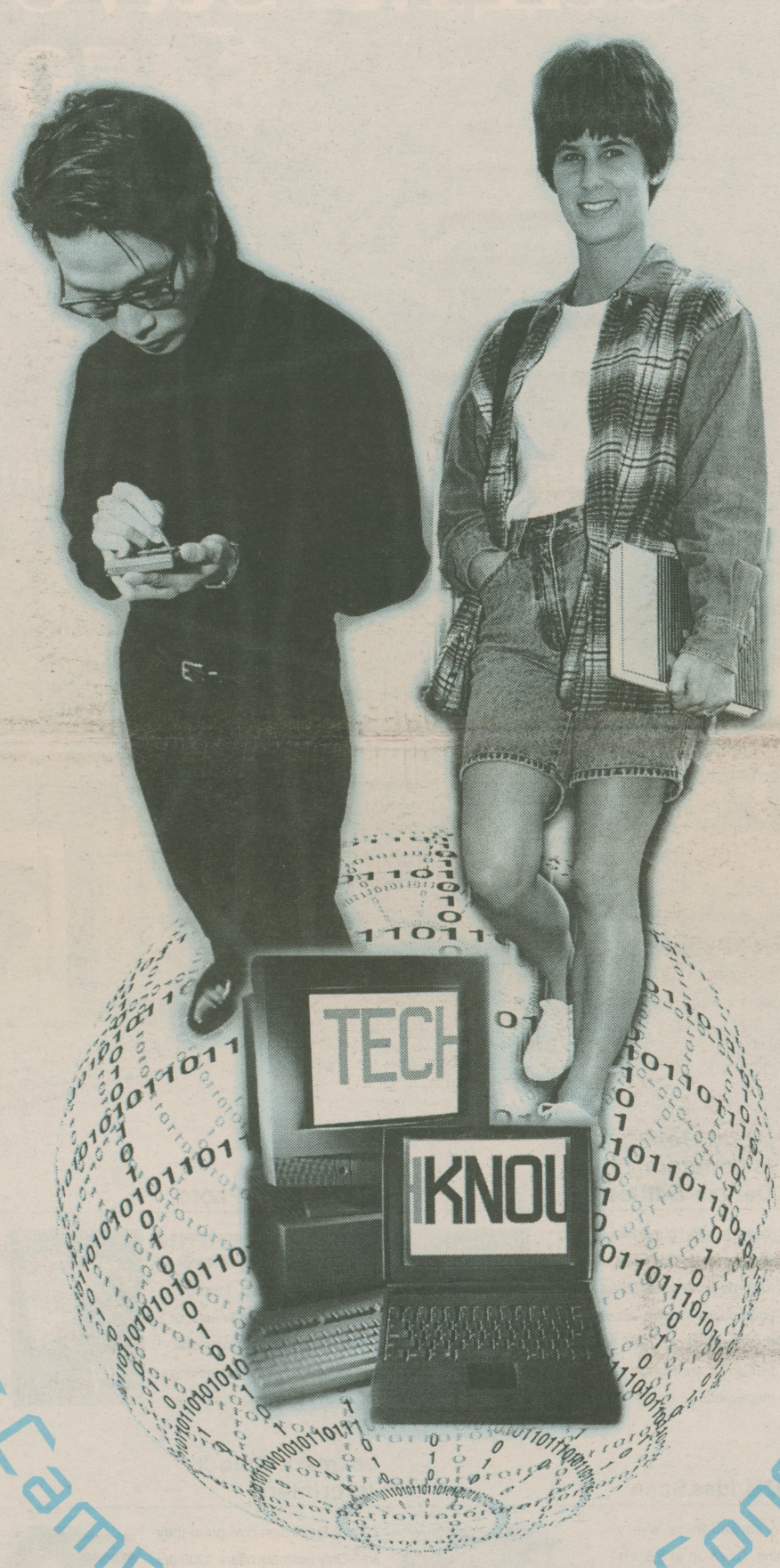
The Administrative Coordinator and Ombudsperson are ex officio, non-voting. Quorum is 4 voting members, including the Chair or Chair's designate.

Please note:

Individual cases are reviewed solely by the Ombudsperson. Confidentiality requirements preclude the Committee or its members from reviewing case information, or recommendations pursuant to individual case review.

TECHKNOWLEDGY

FALL 1999



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Why buy your computer at UVic

The **UVic Computer Store** is a not for profit organization dedicated providing top quality systems and software with the highest levels of service at the best priced.

The **UVic Computer Store** is the only computer store owned and operated by the University of Victoria. It is located on campus in the Clearihue building.

Computer Store staff are knowledgeable and will help you configure a system that meets your specific requirements whether it is PC, Macintosh or UNIX-based. Unlike other retailers, you can rely on the Computer Store staff to sell you what you need and not an overpriced system with unnecessary bells and whistles.

Their status as an educational reseller allows them to offer a variety of software and hardware products at special discount pricing. Take advantage of these discounts while you are a student as they are not offered to the general public.

Educational pricing

As an educational reseller of computer hardware, software and accessories, they offer top quality products at the same or lower price than you will find at retail stores. The UVic Computer Store carries name-brand affordable products from manufacturers such as Apple, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Compaq, Lexmark and Epson. These companies have built their reputations on industry leading technology, great pricing and product support.

Educational discounts on software are impressive if not outstanding. They carry software from all major manufacturers such as Microsoft, Adobe, Claris, Symantec, Borland, Corel, and Lotus. The Computer Store can also obtain the educational discounts on many special order computer products.

Technical Service

The UVic technical service department has factory trained technicians on staff to ensure that any service or upgrade procedure is done quickly and correctly.

They are also authorized to offer warranty repairs on many products they sell.

Owning a computer: benefits and advantages

Computer skills have become a necessity in education, and as with anything else, using the right tools is essential to being productive.

You will be surprised to discover the advantages that owning a computer can provide.

A home computer and printer allow you to make the most effective use of your time: doing research from your living room, completing assignments at your convenience, and working in a familiar environment can help increase your productivity and reduce your stress.

The systems sold at the Computer Store include features such as fax/modems, which will give you access to the Internet and allow you to communicate with your professors, fellow students, friends and family using e-mail or faxes. The CD-ROM drive in a multimedia system allows you to use the latest software such as encyclopedias and dictionaries, only available on CDs, and at a fraction of their traditional cost.

Purchasing a computer can be a frustrating and intimidating endeavor. Therefore, it is very important that your decision be well planned and not based on impulse. Computer Store staff are all university employees and do not work on commission, so you will get only what you need and want.

They will give you informed advice based on your needs and the products that are available. Less expensive systems offered by other retailers may appear attractive, however, purchasing a system through the UVic Computer Store ensures that your investment is backed by product quality and after-sales support throughout your stay at UVic.

Filling your computing needs

You can visit the Computer store in room C143 in the Clearihue building. They are open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and accept cash, certified cheques, bank drafts, money orders, Interac direct payment, Visa, and MasterCard.

If you require any additional information on the products they have to offer, it can be obtained either by:

Tel: (250) 721-8321
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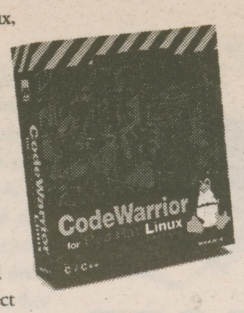
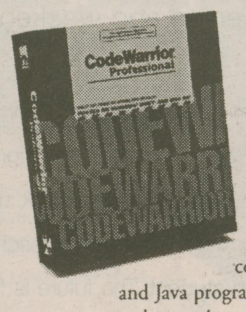
METROWERKS

CodeWarrior for Red Hat Linux, GNU edition

CodeWarrior for Red Hat Linux, GNU edition, is an industrial-strength, easy-to-use Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for building Red Hat Linux applications, bundled with EGCS C/C++ compilers, assemblers and linkers and hosted on Red Hat Linux 5.2. Metrowerks' CodeWarrior IDE contains a state-of-the-art project manager, seamlessly integrated editor, intuitive file compare facility, powerful multi-file text search capability and user-friendly error management system.



CodeWarrior Professional Academic, Release 5



Now featuring integrated RAD (Rapid Application Development) tools for Java, CodeWarrior Professional Academic gives you the tools you need for all of your software development. The only comprehensive Integrated Development Environment (IDE) in which you can edit, compile and debug C/C++, Pascal and Java programs for multiple target processors and operating systems. CodeWarrior's compilers produce fast, highly optimized code for Mac OS running on 68K or PowerPC computers, or Windows 95/98/NT running on x86 computers. CodeWarrior Professional Academic contains both French and English versions.

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Adobe® InDesign™ software redefines professional publishing, delivering a level of integration, creative freedom, productivity, and precision unmatched by other page layout programs. Get started quickly with InDesign by easily converting QuarkXPress® documents to InDesign format. If you already know Adobe Photoshop® and Adobe Illustrator®, the familiar commands, tools, shortcuts, and palettes will let you hit the ground running.

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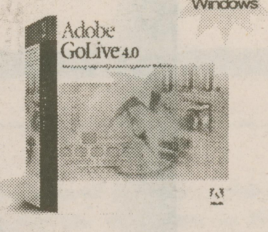

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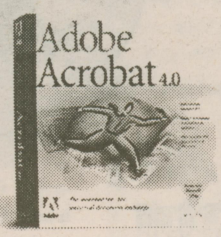

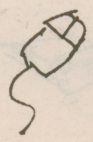

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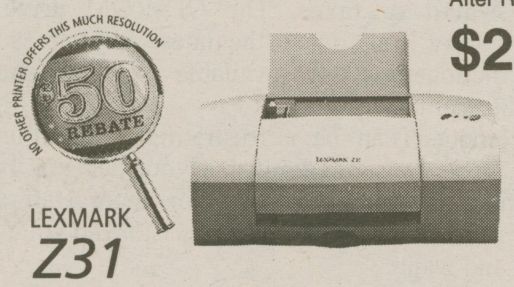

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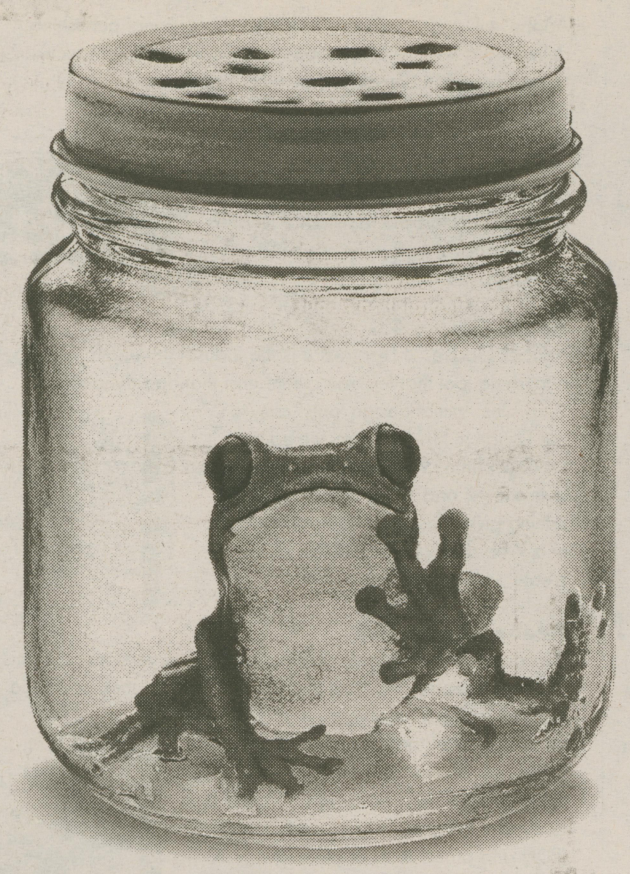

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- repair of microcomputer hardware
- resolution of problems associated with accessing computing resources such as the Internet and E-mail
- resolution of problems caused by errors in operating systems or application software

For faculty, staff and graduate students:

- help with the installation of UVic standard software
- resolution of difficulties using computing resources

For students in UVic Student Residences with Ethernet connections to the campus network and the Internet:

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- help with configuration

These connections are free of charge, but you will require an Ethernet card and cable for your computer.

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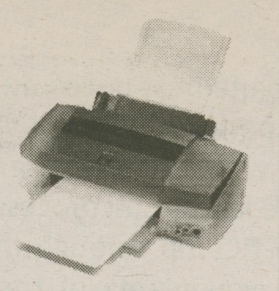

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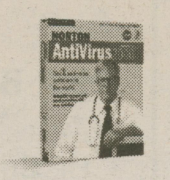

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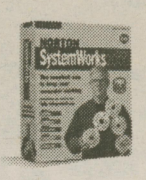

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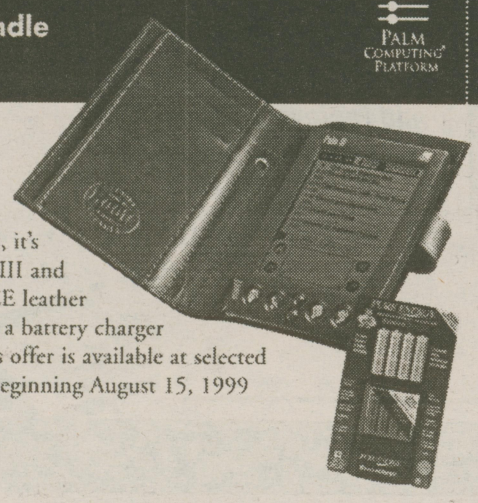

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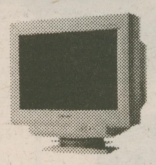

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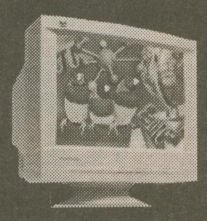

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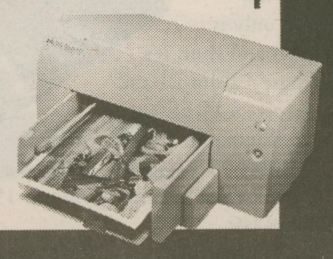

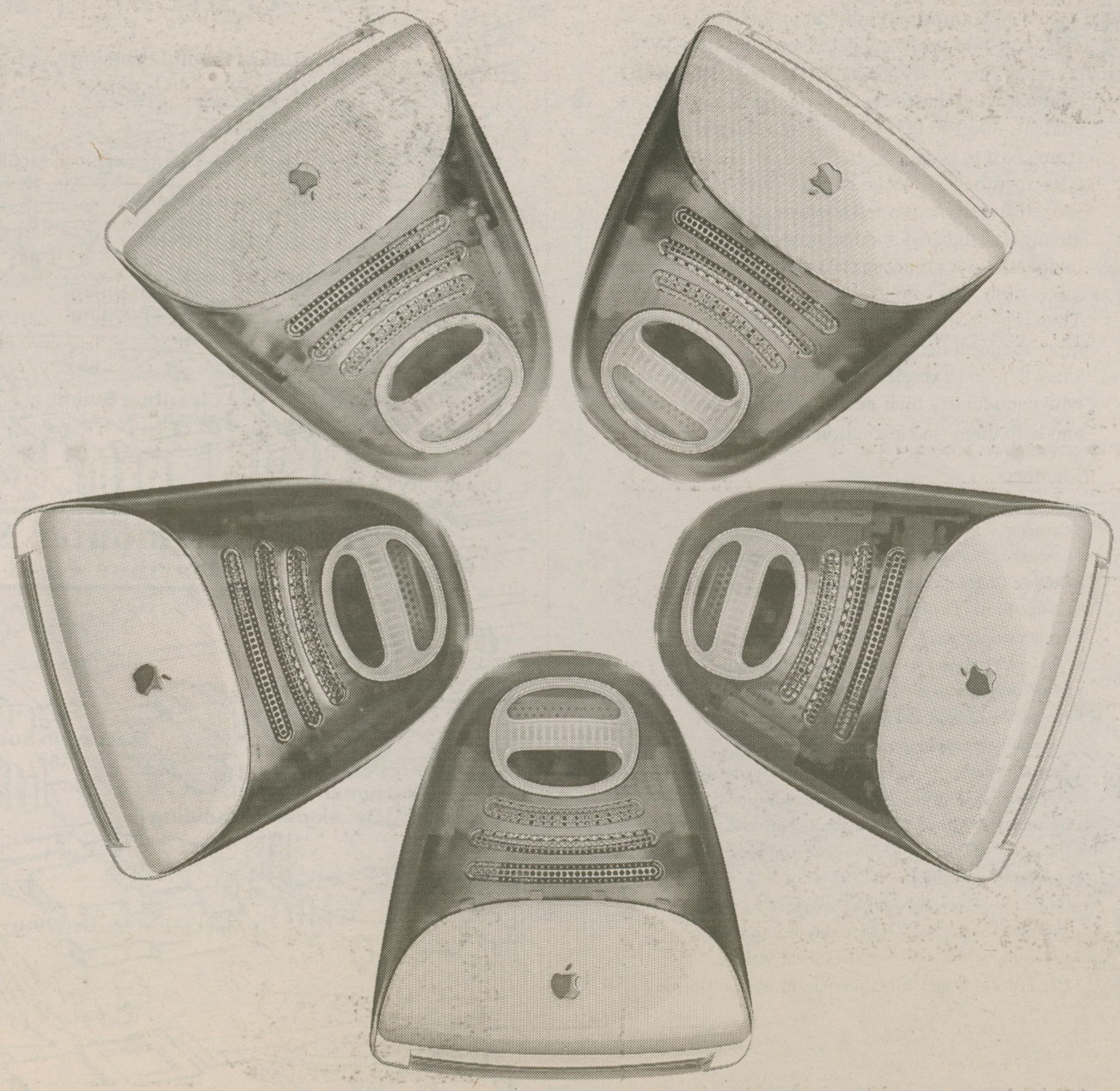

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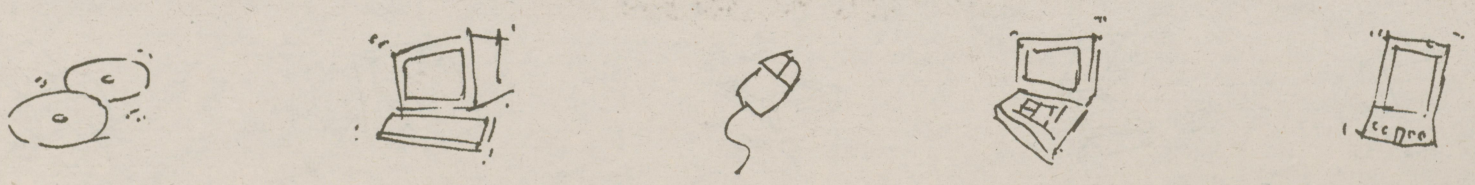


CRC Campus Retail Canada

TECHKNOWLEDGY

Campus Retail Canada (CRC) is a non-profit collective of more than 30 university and college owned computer stores serving the needs of more than 1 million students and 100,000 teaching and support staff from coast to coast.

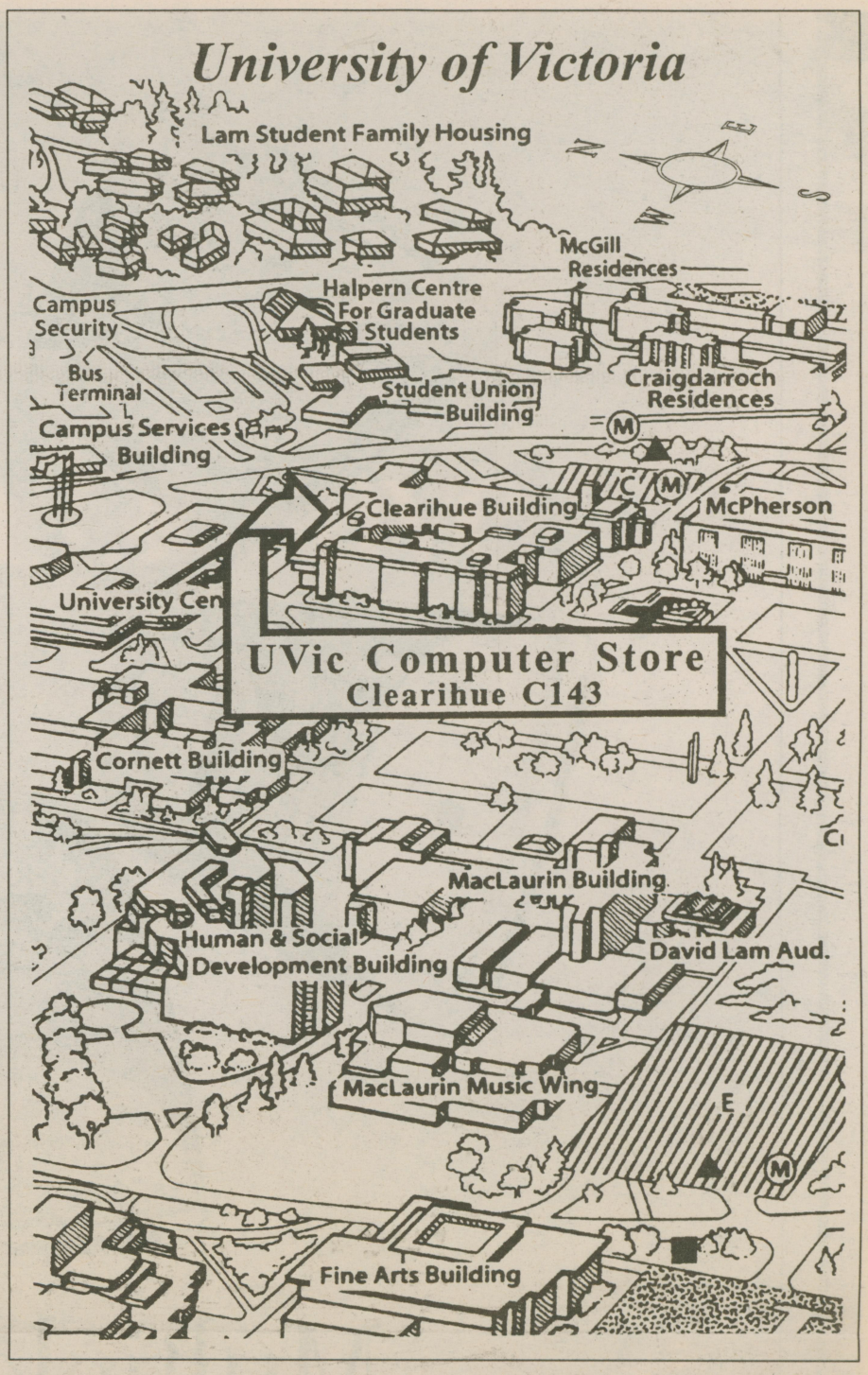
CRC members serve a computer retail market that is exclusive, dynamic and sophisticated. Customers are highly educated and technologically savvy, and their computer purchases are driven by one primary motivation–education.

They rely on their campus computer store to do more than sell them a product.

They demand experienced and knowledgeable staff who can identify their needs, provide sound advice and help them find a solution that's right for them.

Members:

- Algonquin College
- Brock University
- Canadore College/Nipissing University
- Centennial College
- Concordia University
- Durham College
- Fanshawe College
- George Brown College
- Georgian College
- Laurentian University
- McGill University
- McMaster University
- Memorial University
- Mount Royal College
- Northern Alberta Institute of Tech.
- Providence College and Seminary
- Ryerson Polytechnic University
- Seneca College
- Simon Fraser University
- St. Lawrence College
- Trinity Western University
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia
- University of Calgary
- University College of the Cariboo
- University of Manitoba
- University of New Brunswick (Fredericton & St. John campuses)
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Toronto
- University of Victoria
- University of Waterloo
- University of Western Ontario



MACINTOSH SOFTWARE

MICROSOFT

Word 6.01	$123
Excel 5.0	$123
PowerPoint 4.0	$123
Project 4.0	$174
Office 4.21	$241
Office 98	$260
Visual FoxPro 3.0	$183
Encarta 98 Deluxe	$86
Bookshelf 98	$76
FrontPage 1.0	$72

CONNECTIX

Ram Doubler 2.0	$87
Speed Doubler 2.0	$87
Virtual PC 2.1 (Win 98)	$275
Virtual PC 2.0 (DOS)	$60

FILEMAKER

FileMaker Pro 4.1	$203
HomePage 3.0	$149

APPLE

Mac System 8.5	$89
HyperCard 2.3.5 Value Pak	$103
MacX 2.0.4	$212
AppleWorks 5.0	$115
Mac OS X Server	$375

SYMANTEC

Norton AntiVirus 5.0	$62
Norton Utilities 4.0	$80
Stuffit Deluxe 5	$127
Visual Café Pro 1.0	$140

ADOBE

Adobe Illustrator 8.0	$185
Adobe Image Ready 1.0	$162
Photoshop 5.0	$390
PageMaker 6.5	$263
PageMill 3.0 (CD & 3.5")	$66
FrameMaker 5.5	$356
Acrobat 4	$135

MACROMEDIA

Freehand 7.0	$173
Graphics Studio 7.0	$260

MISCELLANEOUS

CodeWarrior Pro 4.0	$174
MYOB Accounting 8.0	$110
SPSS for the PowerMac 6.1.1	$220
Eudora Pro 4.0	$54
Corel WordPerfect 3.5x	$44
CorelDraw 8.0	$120
Intuit Quicken Deluxe 98	$74

Software supplied on CD-ROM unless otherwise noted

New products shown in **bold**

WINDOWS SOFTWARE

MICROSOFT

Windows 98 Full CD	$286
Windows 98 Upgrade CD	$144
Windows NT Server 4.0	$602
Word 2000	$115
Excel 2000	$147
Access 2000	$147
Office 2000 Standard	$210
Office Developer 2000	$513
Office 2000 Professional	$270
Works 4.5	$76
Project 98	$217
Publisher 2000	$98
Visual Studio 6.0 PRO	$359
Visual Basic 6.0 PRO *	$135
Visual C++ 6.0 PRO *	$135
Visual J++ 6.0 PRO *	$135
Visual InterDev Pro 6.0 *	$135
Encarta 99 Deluxe XMAS	$100
Encarta Virtual Globe Atlas	$69
Bookshelf 98	$72
FrontPage 2000	$96
Flight Simulator 98	$69

** Bonus - includes NT Workstation 4.0 CD*

BORLAND

Borland C++ Builder 3.0 PRO	$127
Delphi 4.0 Standard	$71
Delphi 4.0 Professional	$132

LOTUS

SmartSuite 97	$111
Word Pro 96	$83
Organizer 97	$75

SYMANTEC

Norton AntiVirus 5.0 NT/95/98	$46
Norton SystemWorks 2.0	$75
Norton Utilities 4.0 95	$58
Norton Utilities 2.0 NT	$80
Norton NT Tools 1.0 CD +3.5"	$47
Visual Café 2.0 Java WDE	$66
Winfax Pro 9.0	$85
PC AnyWhere 8.0 Host/Remote	$107

ADOBE

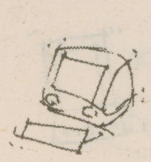
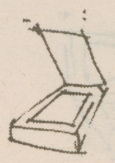
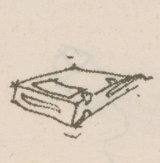
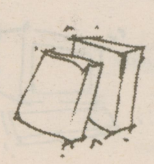
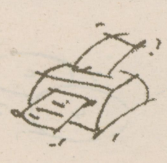
Illustrator 8.0	$200
Photoshop 5.0	$390
PageMaker 6.5.2 plus	$360
PageMill 3.0	$69
Acrobat 4	$135

COREL

WP Suite 2000 (95/NT)	$79
WP Suite 7.0 3.1x	$44
WP Suite 2000 Professional	$139
CorelDraw 5	$80
CorelDraw 8	$99
WP Suite 2000 w. Dragon Dictate	$105

MISCELLANEOUS

MYOB Accounting 7.0 with payroll	$99
CA Simply Accounting 7.0	$59
Claris FileMaker Pro 4.1	$184
Eudora Pro 4.0	$48
SPSS Advanced 9.0 (95/NT)	$240
SPSS Advanced 6.1.4 (Win3.x)	$220
CodeWarrior Pro 4.0 (Win/Mac)	$176

Software supplied on CD-ROM unless otherwise noted

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